



Safety and Care of Tamariki (Children) Policy

PREPARED BY THE LIBRARIES MANAGER

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Upper Hutt Libraries are public community facilities providing resources and spaces for the use and enjoyment of the Upper Hutt community. To ensure a safe and welcoming environment, we expect a good standard of behaviour from all visitors to the libraries.

Your rights and responsibilities

All library visitors have a right to:

- Be treated with respect
- Service that is friendly and helpful
- Manaakitanga - a safe and welcoming environment

When using library services, you have a responsibility to:

- Respect the rights of others
- Treat staff with courtesy and respect
- Treat other library users with courtesy and respect
- Treat library buildings and materials with care

Ensuring the safety of tamariki¹

Upper Hutt City Council is fully committed to protecting the welfare of tamariki. We recognise our responsibility to adopt best practice policies and procedures that will protect children from harm, abuse, and exploitation, while also protecting our staff and volunteers. See [Council's Child Protection Policy | Kaupapa Here Tiaki Tamariki](#).

Tamariki under the age of nine should be actively supervised by a parent/guardian, whānau, or another caregiver for safety reasons. This means you must be able to see tamariki and provide immediate help.

Rangatahi (young people) under the age of fourteen should have reasonable provision of care. This means they should have a way to contact their parent/guardian, and that the parent/guardian can get to the rangatahi in a reasonable amount of time if something goes wrong.

Our role as library staff is to deliver our services and support all customers in the library.

The library takes no responsibility for the safety of tamariki or rangatahi under the age of fourteen who are unsupervised.

¹ The Oranga Tamariki (Children's and Young Peoples' Well-Being) Act 1989 defines a child as a person under the age of 14. The Summary Offences Act 1981 states that it is against the law to leave a child under the age of 14 "without making reasonable provision for their care and supervision". What counts as "reasonable" depends on the circumstances in which a child is left alone (e.g., their location or who is accompanying them); the length of time they are alone; and other factors, such as the child's level of maturity. From: Oranga Tamariki Practice Centre 'home alone'. <https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/assessment-and-planning/assessments/specialist-topics/when-tamariki-are-unsupervised-home-alone/>