



Hot Drinks Policy

Background

"Every 1 ½ minutes someone in the UK is burnt or scalded"

(Whoops Child Safety Project 2005)

"Hot drinks are a number one cause of scald injuries among young children every year over 500 children under five visit A&E departments as a result of scalds from kettles and hot drinks"

(Children's Fire and Burn Trust 2005)

Childhood accidents are predictable and preventable.

The emotional cost to families is enormous.

The Facts

- Ten children per day, every single day, are admitted to hospital with serious burns or scalds.
- A child's skin is 15 times thinner than the skin of an adult
- A child exposed to hot water liquid of 60 °C (140 °F) for 3 seconds can sustain 3rd

Aim

- To work in partnership with professionals and parents and carers of children under 5 to:
- Eliminate the risk of children sustaining burns and scalds as a result of hot drinks being served in Children's Centre settings
- Recognise dangers
- Take action to avoid /remove the danger
- Change the behaviour, to reduce and eliminate burns and scald accidents

Objectives

1. To work in partnership with agencies working with children and young people to deliver an effective and consistent approach to preventing accidents caused by hot drinks and fluids.
2. To encourage responsibility and accountability of parents/carers and professionals in eliminating preventable accidents to children.

Target

This policy aims to support the outcomes and government targets identified in Every Child Matters – in particular "to keep children safe from accidental injury and death".

Policy Statement

- All individuals delivering services within the Children's Centre setting must adhere to the hot drinks policy.
- No hot drinks will be available in any room where there are children present.
- Cold drinks will be available as an alternative
- Hot drinks may be offered in a designated, safe area, where there are no children present.
- If a child should inadvertently be brought into a room where hot drinks are being consumed, then every effort must be taken to minimise potential risk to the child.
- In order to implement this policy effectively, it must be communicated to those present, prior to the start of all sessions/activities.

For further information please contact

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It is intended that by adopting this policy and keeping staff, volunteers, families and the management committee informed/trained and up-to-date with procedures, the Centre can avoid the need for complaints. However, the Centre Leader is the first point of contact should any queries arise over this policy and its related procedures.

Policy endorsement

Signed by:

Date:

Name: Daphne Sohl

Position: Centre Leader