



Sure Start Children's Centre

# Hot Drinks Policy



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**Policy Approved And Adopted By: OM and SM Partnership Board**

**Due For Review:** November 2011

**Members Of Staff Responsible For Implementation And Review :**

Clare Quirke/Claire Woollett

In order to safeguard the welfare of the children, staff, parents/carers, and anyone else who is present in the Centres, there are strict guidelines on the consumption of hot drinks.

## Background

'Every 1 ½ minutes someone in the UK is burnt or scalded' (Whoops Child Safety Project 2005)

'Hot drinks are the number one cause of scald injuries among young children. Every year over 6500 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 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns

## 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.

## Policy Statement

1. All **staff and** individuals delivering services **or working** within the Children's Centres setting must adhere to the hot drinks policy.
2. Hot drinks will not be available in Parent and Toddler groups including 'Tots' groups, Young Parents, Chat and Play etc.
3. Hot drinks must not be consumed in any area where there may be children including corridors and hallways.
4. Mugs with hot drinks should be carried from the kitchen in an ice cream tub to prevent spills.
5. Hot drinks may be offered within smaller, structured sessions in a designated safe area, where every effort must be taken to minimise potential risk to children.
6. For activities/groups run by outside agencies **the policy will be made clear. It will be for the individual organisation to decide whether they feel the situation is 'controlled' enough to allow hot drinks to be available.**
7. **Contractors will be made aware of the policy and asked to ensure that no workers consume drinks in rooms/areas where there are/may be children. Long term contractors will provide their own facilities securely located outside of the building.**

## Resources

Information leaflets and DVDs are available from the Centres' Child Accident Prevention Officer.