

Hot Drinks Procedures

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Introduction

Hot drink scalds are one of the most common childhood injuries and the leading cause of children being admitted to burns services.

Every day, 45 children in the UK are taken to Accident & Emergency departments with scalds from hot drinks – that's 16,500 a year.

Incidents are so common because a baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's and hot drinks can still scald a young child 20 minutes after they have originally been made.

As such, every staff member and user of the Centre must take great care to prevent any hot drinks coming into contact with children on the premises.

Aims

In order to safeguard the welfare of all of our children, we strictly enforce the following guidelines on the consumption of hot drinks:

- Hot drinks may only be prepared in designated areas which are free of children. These are the Outreach Hall's kitchen, the Outreach office and the Staffroom, as well as the Training Room at specific times when children's activities are not taking place.
- All hot drinks outside of this designated area must be kept in an insulated cup with a lid.
- All lids should be checked to ensure they are firmly on before use.
- Drinks must be prepared in the designated areas to keep all children away from the kettle.
- If a child should inadvertently be brought into an area where hot drinks are being consumed, then every effort must be taken to minimize potential risk to the child.
- Hot drinks should not be carried around the building from one room to another, unless they are in insulated cups with lids.
- In order to implement this policy effectively, it must be communicated to those present prior to the start of all sessions/activities.
- No external visitors or families should access the Outreach Hall's kitchen when Stay and Plays are taking place. On these occasions (currently Wednesday and Thursday mornings) a member of Ambler's staff will offer to prepare a drink instead, if they are available to do so.

Related policies: First Aid and Accident Reporting