



## **24 Hot Drinks Policy**

### **Rationale**

Young children's skin is particularly sensitive to hot liquids and serious burns can result from contact with hot drinks. See key messages for parents and carers. Wigod Way Wallingford Family Centre (WWWFC) provides family support and providing a welcoming drink is part of the process of making families feel welcome and supported. However, it is important that children are protected from the risk of hot drink spillage and WWWFC staff, volunteers and users of the centre will be expected to adhere to the following rules. These rules will be shown to all staff and volunteers as part of their induction process.

### **Staff and Volunteers**

- No children are allowed in the kitchen area of the room at any time and the gate is to be kept shut at all times.
- Staff may not have hot drinks in a session.
- No hot drinks are to be carried out of the room whilst a session is running or there are families in the building.
- Staff will make sure that all users of the centre are aware of hot drinks rules and these rules will be displayed for families and users. Particular care will be taken to make sure families with English as a second language understand the rules.
- Cold drinks are made available in all sessions

### **Families and users WWWFC Family Centre**

- In general, no hot drinks in busy Stay & Play sessions inside (exceptions may be made by the staff taking into account risk).
- Any hot drinks in a Stay and Play must be drunk in the kitchen and hot drinks left on the side by the sink, with the gate of the kitchen closed.
- Lidded cups can be used outside and if put down, put out of reach of children. Adults should carry only one cup at a time.

## Hot drink scalds - key messages for parents and carers (to be displayed)

- As part of CAPT's hot drinks scalds awareness campaign, we want to ensure you have all the important messages to give to parents and carers
- A baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's. This is why they can be so badly hurt by a hot drink and may be left scarred for life.
- A hot drink with milk left standing for as long as ten minutes can still scald a baby or toddler in less than two seconds.
- More than 300 children are rushed to hospital each week with hot drink scalds. Most of them are young children aged just one or two.
- Because they are just too young to understand danger, or to follow or remember instructions reliably, it's up to the adults around them to keep them safe from hot drinks.
- The most common hot drink scald accident happens when a baby or toddler pulls a mug of hot drink down on themselves. This accounts for 6 in 10 of all hot drink scald accidents.
- Put your hot drink down well out of reach from little hands. Think of safe places in your home for hot drinks where you know your child can't reach.
- Accidents also happen when a baby or toddler spills a hot drink onto themselves – often when they're sat in a grown-up's lap – or when an adult knocks or spills a hot drink over a child.
- Make sure you put your baby down before picking up your hot drink. Then you don't have to worry about them wriggling in your lap or grabbing your mug.
- Don't pass hot drinks over a baby or young child's head in case it spills on them.

**For more information go to:** <http://www.capt.org.uk/safety-advice/protecting-your-child-burns-and-scalds>

**WWWFC**  
**Hot drink rules**



- No children are allowed in the kitchen at any time.
- In general, hot drinks are not available in busy Stay, Play and Learn sessions inside when parents are at the setting with their child and their child is playing.
- There may be exceptions to this (for instance if a parent has a child asleep in a pushchair or a parent does not have a child with them). In this case parents can have a hot drink in the gated kitchen area with the gate closed.
- In quieter sessions, hot drinks are available for parents in or next to the gated kitchen area. Drinks are made by WWWFC staff.
- Staff may only have hot drinks in the gated kitchen area.
- Parents/carers may have a hot drink outside in a lidded cup- please only carry one cup at a time. Staff will make the hot drink. Please hold the hot drink at all times. If you need to put the drink down please place it out of children's reach.