

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **Responsible consumption of hot drinks at the service**

**Services should adapt this attachment and its procedures to suit their specific circumstances.**

Scalds and burns from hot liquids are a common cause of hospital admission in 0 to 4 year olds. A child's skin is thinner and more sensitive than an adult's and will therefore experience a more severe burn (refer to *Sources*: Kidsafe fact sheet). Children's natural curiosity, impulsiveness, mode of reaction and lack of experience in assessing danger are contributing factors to the vulnerability of children at this age.

Common scenarios that can lead to a child being scalded include when a child pulls a cup of tea, coffee or hot water from a table or bench, or when a child runs into a person holding a hot drink resulting in the hot drink spilling over the child's body.

The consumption of lukewarm drinks or the use of lidded cups/mugs in areas accessed by children should be considered with caution, as this is not necessarily a safe practice and might give the impression that it is acceptable to consume hot drinks around children.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and all staff are responsible for:**

- ensuring that hot drinks are only prepared in areas inaccessible to children, such as the kitchen, staff room and office
- ensuring that hot drinks are only in insulated sealed lidded cups
- ensuring that the insulated sealed lidded cups are shelved at a safe height within adults only arms reach when not being consumed including when outdoors
- ensuring that hot drinks are not consumed when walking around in the indoor and outdoor areas
- informing parents/guardians on duty, visitors to the service, students, volunteers, and any other person participating in the program of the service's hot drink procedures and the reasons for such procedures
- ensuring that children enrolled and participating in the program do not have access to areas of the building that are likely to be hazardous, including the kitchen, staff room and office
- ensuring that parents/guardians attending the service actively supervise children in their care who are not enrolled in the program, including siblings
- ensuring that at least one educator with current approved first aid qualifications is in attendance and immediately available at all times that children are being educated and cared for by the service
- educating service users about the prevention of burns and scalds by providing relevant information (refer to *Sources*: Burns and scalds – children and Kidsafe fact sheet), including appropriate first aid for scalds
- implementing safety procedures in relation to hot drinks at service events occurring outside operational hours, including:
  - offering alternative drinks for adults e.g. juice, water or iced coffee
  - safely locating urns, kettles and power cords out of reach of children
  - preparing and consuming hot drinks in an area inaccessible to children
  - ensuring a person with current approved first aid qualifications is in attendance for social events held outside operational hours.