

factsheet

safety in the toddler group

This is for those who attend a group.

Your Parent and Toddlers Group, or whatever name yours has, offers a number of opportunities to you. It is a place where you can have a conversation other than baby babble, has sympathetic listeners who may have been through similar situations – sleepless nights, screaming sessions (and your baby!) food fads, etc, and is a place for your baby or toddler to meet others. What a sanctuary.

Although your group may be run by other parents & carers everyone attending has a responsibility to contribute to it. The way you behave can affect the safety of other parents and their children.

Accident Alert!

Two particular accidents that injure thousands of pre-school children are:

- **burns and scalds** - from hot drinks, hot water from kettles, jugs of water for warming baby bottles, hot water in baths

Did you know that a hot drink can badly scald a young child's skin up to 20 MINUTES after it was made?

- **falls** - down stairs and steps, out of highchairs & pushchairs, from windows

So what can you do?

Over the page are some steps that you can take to ensure that your child and others have a pleasant relaxing time without being hurt.



How you can help keep the Toddler Group a safe place.

The overall safety of equipment, heating lighting and the general safe running of the group will be the responsibility of an organiser/leader and committee. These will probably be parents or carers with their own children attending. However there are some things that *you* can do.

- if you take a pram or pushchair into the premises make sure it is not blocking a doorway, fire exit, or access to children's activities
- when entering or leaving the building do not leave outside doors open behind you as children may run out
- when arriving or leaving watch out for children who may try to run past you and go outside
- take care of your child on any stairs or steps. Make sure your child is in front of you so that you can help – or catch them if they fall!
- a welcoming cuppa is wonderful, but think carefully where you put it while you wait for it to cool. Do not put it ANYWHERE that a child could reach. Holding a child on your lap and a hot drink in your hand is putting a child at risk of a nasty burn.
- if you have to warm your baby's bottle ensure you do this away from the children to prevent scalds
- if you are helping to make the hot drinks ensure there are no children in the area, or a child on your hip, or baby on your arm while you do this
- if your child has scattered toys about help to clear them up to prevent trips and falls
- check toys and equipment such as tables and chairs that children could climb onto are not next to windows; *especially open windows or windows with old thin glass that can easily be fallen through*
- if children are put in high chairs or kept in pushchairs check that they are wearing a 5 point harness*
- don't leave your bag open where children can rummage in it
- there will be a no smoking policy for the safety and health of children and adults. Trying to smoke half outside with the door open to keep an eye on your children puts other children at risk of escape. (The smoke blows back in the room too!)
- although the group is there for you to relax remember you are responsible for your own children. Do not expect others to look after them for you

* a 5 point harness is not always supplied with a pushchair or highchair. It can be purchased separately as a set of reins. The set has the harness and a long strap to clip on for walking.

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