

## Hot drinks biggest cause of kids' burns

10th February, 2014



Hot cups and mugs are the biggest causes of burns in children. This is according to research from Cardiff University in Wales, U.K. The lead researcher,

Professor Alison Mary Kemp, said parents needed to be more aware of the dangers to children of everyday objects in the home. She said the most dangerous time for toddlers to burn themselves is from nine months of age. This is when babies begin crawling and walking. They start exploring the rooms around them. Of course, babies do not know what is dangerous and what is not, so they touch everything they can reach up to. Dr Kemp said: "Parents may underestimate the potential reach height of their toddler."

The researchers looked at data from three leading burns departments in U.K. hospitals, as well as five emergency departments. Almost 75 per cent of children treated for burns were under the age of five, with most burn injuries happening to one-year-olds. Most of the burns were because the child reached up and pulled a cup or mug containing a hot drink on top of themselves. The researchers warned that any hot drink could burn a baby, even 15 minutes after it has been made. This is because a baby's skin is much thinner than an adult's skin, so it is easier to burn. The researchers advised parents to have a rethink about where they place hot objects and keep them out of reach of small children.

Sources: BBC / The Guardian / WebMD

### Writing

*Inside the home is more dangerous for a baby than outside. Discuss.*

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*cups / research / aware / dangers / everyday objects / toddlers / crawling / potential / data / emergency / hospitals / hot drink / 15 minutes / skin / rethink / small children*

### True / False

- New research says hot drinks in glasses causes most burns to children. T / F
- A researcher warned parents of the dangers of items in homes. T / F
- The most dangerous time for babies is twelve months. T / F
- The researcher said parents should know how high children can reach. T / F
- Researchers looked at information from 55 hospitals in the U.K. T / F
- Nearly three-quarters of kids with burns were under 5 years old. T / F
- A hot drink is dangerous to a baby even after a quarter of an hour. T / F
- A baby's skin is thicker than an adult's skin. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. causes    | a. common        |
| 2. aware of  | b. statistics    |
| 3. everyday  | c. possible      |
| 4. exploring | d. alert to      |
| 5. potential | e. put           |
| 6. data      | f. reasons       |
| 7. leading   | g. cautioned     |
| 8. warned    | h. range         |
| 9. place     | i. investigating |
| 10. reach    | j. top           |

### Discussion – Student A

- How much damage do you think a hot drink can do to a baby?
- How can designers change cups to keep them safer for babies?
- Should adults only drink cold drinks when children are young?
- What things in the home do babies find most interesting?
- Should parents keep babies in a special place with a gate?
- Is it stressful making sure a baby stays out of danger?
- What would happen if a parent stopped a baby exploring the home?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. according to research                         | a. crawling                |
| 2. everyday                                      | b. what is dangerous       |
| 3. This is when babies begin                     | c. under the age of five   |
| 4. babies do not know                            | d. departments             |
| 5. Parents may underestimate the potential reach | e. from Cardiff University |
| 6. emergency                                     | f. height of their toddler |
| 7. 75% of children treated for burns were        | g. than an adult's skin    |
| 8. any hot drink                                 | h. of small children       |
| 9. a baby's skin is much thinner                 | i. could burn a baby       |
| 10. keep them out of reach                       | j. objects                 |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How often do you burn yourself?
- Did you have a lot of accidents when you were a toddler?
- What everyday objects are dangerous to children?
- What can parents do to be more careful?
- Is it possible to stop a toddler from touching things?
- Should parents change their furniture to make everything higher?
- Is indoors more dangerous for a baby than outdoors?

## Spelling

- This is iacgnodrc to research from Cardiff University
- parents needed to be more aarew
- the dangers to children of everyday oscebtj
- the most dangerous time for isedtrdo
- when babies begin nwiclgra and walking
- They start egpoixrln the rooms around them
- five eencrmegy departments
- children aertdet for burns
- most burn usinjeri
- a cup or mug tcgnonanij a hot drink
- The researchers dsvaedi parents to have a rethink
- keep them out of earhc of small children

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. b	7. j	8. g	9. e	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – The kitchen

You think the kitchen is the most dangerous place for babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are safe about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): the car, the garden or the supermarket.

### Role B – The car

You think the car is the most dangerous place for babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are safe about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): the kitchen, the garden or the supermarket.

### Role C – The garden

You think the garden is the most dangerous place for babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are safe about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): the car, the kitchen or the supermarket.

### Role D – The supermarket

You think the supermarket is the most dangerous place for babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are safe about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): the car, the garden or the kitchen.

## Speaking – Dangerous

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most dangerous places for babies at the top. Share your rankings often.

- the kitchen
- the car
- the street
- supermarkets
- the bath / bathroom
- the stairs
- the garden
- the park

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.