

# For Parents to Address Providers

## Talking Points

I was recently made aware of a devastating new trend in childcare centers across the country. Young children are getting severe 2nd and 3rd degree burns over large portions of their body as a result of a common bottle warming technique.

Is my child's bottle being heated before feeding?

If it is, how is it being heated?

- *If microwave:* Heating bottles with a microwave is extremely dangerous. Microwaves don't heat the formula uniformly, so pockets of extremely hot liquid can burn my child. Please do not use a microwave to heat my child's bottle in the future.
- *If slow cooker:* Kids across the country have been burned by the scalding hot water inside of slow cookers. Most times the child pulls on the slow cooker cord and the entire appliance falls on top of them, causing severe 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Even if the cord and device is secured accidents can still happen when the slow cooker is moved for cleaning. Please do not use a slow cooker to heat my child's bottle in the future.
- *If running it under tap water:* Running a bottle under tap water is the ideal way to warm my child's bottle. But, do you know the temperature setting for the hot water heater? The maximum temperature should be set no higher than 120° F. This can be tested and modified easily. Please verify the maximum temperature on the center's water heater.
- *If leaving it at room temperature:* When possible, please give my child their bottle at room temperature or colder. If they are not taking the bottle, please try running it under warm tap water.

I recognize that using a slow cooker is the easiest way to warm several bottles at one time, but until design changes are made to the slow cookers available in the marketplace, I can't condone their use around my child.

A petition directed at the Consumer Product Safety Commission and slow cooker manufacturers is being circulated online at [www.CultureOfSafety.com/breakaway](http://www.CultureOfSafety.com/breakaway). The goal of the petition is to make magnetic breakaway cords mandatory on all slow cookers. As soon as this design change is made I would be comfortable with a slow cooker being used to warm my child's bottle.

# For Providers to Address Parents

Parents:

We were recently made aware of a devastating new trend in homes and childcare centers across the country. Young children are getting severe 2nd and 3rd degree burns over large portions of their body as a result of a common bottle warming technique.

Before we were made aware of this problem we had been using slow cookers to warm your child's bottle. A slow cooker was used instead of more traditional bottle warmers because they can quickly warm several bottles simultaneously by simply placing a prepared bottle into a hot water bath.

Sadly, children in other centers are being burned by the scalding hot water inside of slow cookers. Most times the child pulls on the slow cooker cord and the entire appliance falls on top of them, causing severe, life-changing burns. We make every attempt to keep the slow cooker out of the reach of your child, but because there is even the slightest possibility for an injury, we have decided to permanently remove slow cookers from the facility.

Effective immediately, we will begin to try and provide your child with their bottle served at room temperature or colder. In the event that they refuse a bottle at room temperature we will run the bottle under warm tap water.

During this transitional period we ask for your assistance in slowly weaning your child off of hot formula. Rest assured, there is absolutely no nutritional or long-term health benefit to serving a child a warmed bottle. Your child will continue to receive the same level of nutrition with a cold or room temperature bottle.

If you'd like more information about burns and scalds caused by slow cookers visit [www.CultureOfSafety.com/breakaway](http://www.CultureOfSafety.com/breakaway) which has a five minute video featuring doctors and childcare safety experts.

We greatly appreciate your help in providing your child with the safest childcare experience possible.

Regards,