



Children's Burns Trust
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Mr Michael B Hick
Director
Mattel UK Ltd
3rd Floor, The Porter Building
1 Brunel Way
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27th July 2021

Dear Mr Hick

25% of all burns to children in the UK are tea and coffee cup spills

We are contacting you regarding the Fisher Price Coffee Cup Teether. We would like to express our sincere unease regarding this product and request that, taking into account the information below, you consider removing it from the market as we feel it could lead to small children confusing their teether cup with real hot drink holders and spilling the hot drink on themselves.

Unless this has happened to you or someone you know, it may come as a shock to know that a cup of coffee or tea can seriously scald a child 15 minutes after it has been poured. To give you an idea of the extent of injury that children can sustain from a tea or coffee spill I am attaching a photograph of Arthur, a toddler who was seriously scalded by hot coffee.

In 2020, 8,013 children were so badly burnt in England and Wales that they had to be admitted to a specialist burns service for treatment (this figure is from the National Burn Injury Database and does not include the thousands of children seen in A & E departments). It is estimated that 30 babies and toddlers go to hospital with a hot drink burn every day. A recent SafeTea campaign highlighted that 60% of all under 3 paediatric burn attendances to Accident & Emergency Departments are due to a hot drink burn. These figures are even more disturbing when the vast majority of these accidents are entirely preventable by simply keeping hot drinks out of reach.

Play and exploration are the top activities causing paediatric burn injuries. As we know, children love to copy – and encouraging them to use a teether cup based on a coffee cup design causes us grave concern. We are joined in this by NHS burn care professionals, charities and organisations including the Child Accident Prevention Trust and KidRapt Ltd, as well as UK and US Fire Chiefs and Associations.

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We would very much welcome your thoughts as soon as possible, and look forward to hearing from you by 9th August 2021.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Ken Dunn BSc FRCS(Lond) FRCS(plast)
Trustee**

Encl.

This letter is supported and endorsed by:

Katrina Philips, Chief Executive
Child Accident Prevention Trust

Carol Ainge, Managing Director
Kid Rapt Ltd



Neil Odin, UK Research Lead
National Fire Chiefs Council



NFCC
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Chiefs Council

Chief Donald Lombardi, President
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Lorraine Carli, Vice President
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