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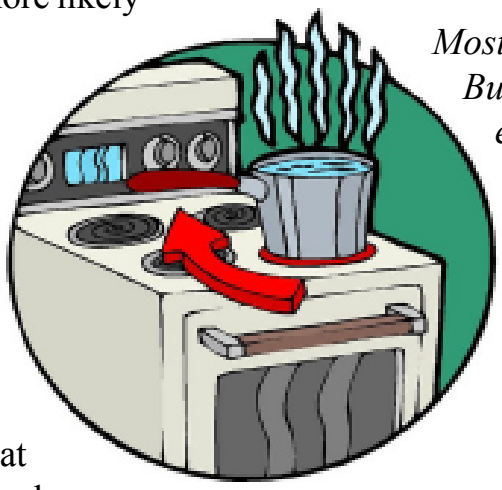
Toddlers At-Risk for Scalds

A recent study suggests that parents need to review and follow experts' safety advice on toddlers and burns. Toddlers, especially 1-year- olds, are at risk for burns and scalds. From 1997 to 2002, hospital ERs treated more than 17,000 children 5 and under for burns.

Over half of these children pulled a pot down from a high surface, like a stove. The hot contents spilled onto the children. This scalds the skin. Scalds were 5 times more common in 1-year-olds than younger children. One-year-olds were also more likely to spend time in a hospital because of a scald.

One-and two-year-old children love to explore the world around them. They are naturally curious. Everyday they learn new skills. Toddlers also love to imitate others. They see parents cooking at the stove. They want to cook too. A bright bowl or cup on a table looks interesting. They want to touch it and play with it. It is how they learn.



Stove tops are usually 36 inches from the ground. Pots placed on the front burner are often in a 1- or 2-year-old's reach. Parents do not think their preschooler can reach this high.

Experts tell parents to:

- ✓ Turn pot handles toward the wall,
- ✓ Place hot drinks in the *middle* of the table, not on the edge, and
- ✓ Remove table cloths from tables.

Most parents know these safety tips. But, they do not always do what experts tell them.

Hot liquids, even small amounts, can cause serious burns. Follow the experts' advice. Make your own **safety plan** to keep your toddler burn-free.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.
544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week.

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