



Too Hot for Tots! A Parent's Story

"IT ONLY TAKE A SECOND TO CHANGE A LIFE FOREVER"

Several years ago, my family experienced a tragic accident that left my eldest daughter scarred on three parts of her body and my husband and I scarred for life with guilt and remorse.

It was a typical Saturday morning that turned into a nightmare when I placed, a just-boiled, pot of tea on the edge of our kitchen table to make room for the meal I was preparing. My actions were totally automatic—just moving an object out of my way, but that absence of mind, combined with a little toddler's curiosity turned that morning into a lesson too painful for any family to endure.

The hours following the burn continue to be a blur except for the image of our daughter's little face and arm swollen and oozing - and her pain. We couldn't believe how all this suffering could come from a simple pot of hot water!

Looking back on it today, we were at the beginning of a very difficult healing process that lasted for years. A critical part of that healing process has been our involvement with Frances MacDougall and her most heartfelt effort and determination to minimize these devastating accidents through education and prevention.

The Too Hot for Tots! prevention video gives parents crucial information about everyday objects in the home that can, in seconds, inflict immeasurable pain and damage to their child. What you see in this video is only a fraction of what we witnessed following our daughter's burn. My initial reaction to the video was that it did not show parents *enough* of what hot water can do.

Our little daughter's face was swollen beyond recognition. I was certain she would never look the same again. We were desperate to know what scarring would result from this burn, but no one was able to give us those answers because in the early stages of a burn that's impossible to know.

We did not received any information from public health about this issue before the birth of our children but I think it would have taken images, like the ones in this video, to change my habit of making a pot of tea and placing it on the table.

I believe parents underestimate the inherent dangers of these common and seemingly benign household objects: a coffee mug resting on the table, or a freshly boiled pot of tea, but these mundane objects can, in an instant, cause irreversible damage. It is a lesson we learned too late, with consequences that will last a lifetime.

Most sincerely,
Katerina V.