Bottle Warming Policy

Rationale
Health authorities warn that a microwave should never be used to heat up a child’s bottle as they heat unevenly and cause ‘hotspots’ that could seriously burn the child’s mouth. Breast milk loses its antibodies if heated in the microwave.

Policy
The Rumpus Room has a duty of care to ensure that all children attending the service are safe and their food and drinks are stored, handled, prepared and served in keeping with safety advice from recognised health and safety authorities.

Procedures:
● All staff shall be made aware of the risks involved in heating bottles in the microwave.
● All bottles are to be stored in the fridge at all times until heating is to commence.
● Frozen breast milk is to be de-frosted in the fridge until heating.
● Formula Bottles are to be pre made at home, clearly labelled and placed in fridge as soon as possible on arrival to centre.
● For work, health and safety reasons while bottles are heating in their containers they are to be placed in a sink where possible or away from all bench edges. Bottles heated in hot water must be heated away from children.
● Bottles are not to be re-heated at any time.
● If bottles are not used after 30 minutes milk is to be discarded.
● Literature is updated and distributed to staff as required to support ‘best practice’.

Bottle Warming:
● Heat bottles in bottle warmers provided
● Get the required bottle/bottles out of the fridge and place them in the bottle warmer.
● When heated in the bottle warmer, shake the bottle to ensure even heat distribution. Check temperature by dropping a little of the milk onto your wrist. If not warm enough put the bottle back into the jug or warmer and check at one minute intervals until warm.

This policy links to the following NQS:
National Quality Standards 2.2.1, 2.3.2
See Appendix 1-National Law (section) and National Regulations (regulation)