



POLICY ADVISORY

Policy Title: Bottle Warming Safety

Policy Number: FO-25-03

Release Date: July 9, 2025

Effective Date: August 1, 2025

Policy Link: [<https://www.mass.gov/doc/updated-bottle-warming-safety-policy/download>]

OVERVIEW

Bottles of formula or breast milk may be given to children at room temperature or cold. At times, however, a family may ask for their child's bottle to be warmed. The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) recognizes the challenge programs may face when trying to warm bottles for multiple children at the same time. EEC is therefore updating its policy on bottle warming safety to allow flexibility for programs while continuing to minimize the risk of burn injuries to children.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all licensed and funded programs.

KEY UPDATES

- The updated policy clarifies that bottles may not be heated or thawed using water from a hot water dispenser.
- The updated policy now allows for certain types of bottle warmers. **Only bottle warmers that use warm air to heat or those electric bottle warmers that do not use water or steam are allowed.**

Please note that the above is only a highlight of the key changes to the previous policy. It is not the complete content of the policy. **PLEASE SEE THE LINK ABOVE TO READ THE ENTIRE POLICY.**

RESOURCES

- [EEC's technical assistance document](#), has been updated to reflect these updates to the Bottle Warming Safety policy.

OBSOLETE

This updated policy replaces EEC's previous Bottle Warming Safety policy issued on January 23, 2012.