

8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the Nursery setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have any animals or creatures.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- Our staff are knowledgeable of all the animals welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We have arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We are register with the local vet and take out appropriate animal care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures are up-to-date and recorded.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of our animals or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animals or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.

- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- We carry out and review risk assessment for Our Farm School.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with our animals.

- Outdoor footwear worn and is cleaned of mud and debris on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

This policy was adopted by _____ (name of provider)

On _____ (date)

Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the management committee _____

Name of signatory _____

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) _____