

Promoting health and hygiene

3.1 Animals in the setting

Policy Statement

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

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have with 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 the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner.
- A risk assessment is carried out with the advice of the owner, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed. This risk assessment can be verbal.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris 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 at a meeting of _____ name of setting

Held on _____ (date)

Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Name of signatory

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