

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:

- 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.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures are up-to-date and recorded.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children the safety of the animal or creature is the responsibility of the owner.
- The manager/deputy manager can refuse the admission of any animal or creature that they consider to be dangerous or inappropriate. The children's safety is paramount at all times.

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 their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms should be removed upon return to the setting and should not be worn indoors.

Review Date: September 2018