



Safety & Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment Policy

8.6 Animals brought into the setting and on visits

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

- On occasions, such as 'Pet Day' the Pre-school children are invited to bring pets into Pre-school to show the other children and to talk about them. This should be agreed in advance with the Supervisor so that a risk assessment can be carried out.
- The animals should be kept in a secure box or cage unless being handled under supervision and should be placed in a quiet area which children cannot access at other times, or the parent / person responsible for the animal should stay in the setting while the animal is displayed and handled and then remove it from the premises.
- We carry out a risk assessment accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal waste or soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner at all times.
- 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.

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 is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

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 provider)

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) _____