

POLICY PROMOTING HEALTH AND HYGIENE: ANIMALS IN THE SETTING & VISIT TO FARMS

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, 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.

Procedure for animals in the setting as pets

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal 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
- We provide suitable housing for the animal 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
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal and are supervised
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Staff 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 the owner
- The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal 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.
- We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- The outings procedure is followed (see Outings Policy)
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible 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.

Reviewed March 2020