



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/Zoos

Staff are aware of the risks posed by infections such as E. coli being contracted from animals. They are also aware of toxic substances used on farms that could be hazardous to health. Staff are vigilant of the natural dangers presented by a farm or zoo visit and conduct a risk assessment prior to the visit.

- The venue is contacted in advance of the visit to ensure no recent outbreaks of E. coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak the visit will be reviewed and may be postponed.
- Hands are washed and dried thoroughly after touching an animal.
- Nothing is consumed whilst going round the farm. Food is eaten away from animals, after thoroughly washing hands.
- Children are prevented from putting their faces against animals or hands in their own mouths.
- If animal droppings are touched, hands are washed and dried immediately.
- Shoes are cleaned and hands washed thoroughly as soon as possible on departure.
- Staff or volunteers who are or may be pregnant, should avoid contact with pregnant ewes and may want to consult their own GP before the visit.
- Farmers have a responsibility to ensure that hand washing and drying facilities are available and are suitably located, that picnic areas are separate and clean, and that all other health and safety laws are fully observed.
- The outings procedure is followed (see Outings Policy)

For further guidance, refer to the insurance provider.

Reviewed 06/08/26
To be reviewed annually