



Promoting Health and Hygiene

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 Pre-School or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls **and that staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.**

Procedures

Animals in the Pre-School as pets

- We keep fish as pets at Pre-School.
- A risk assessment has been carried out and alternative arrangements have been made to ensure the safety of the fish when Pre-School is closed.

Visits by animals to Pre-School

- A risk assessment is carried out for any visit by an animal or creature.
- The animal or creature brought in is the responsibility of the owner.
- Children are taught correct handling of the animal or creature.
- Children are supervised during any contact with the animal or creature.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature.

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.

Further guidance

- *Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)*