



Safeguarding children

1.14 Animals in the setting and farm visits

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may involve contact with animals in the setting or on outings from the nursery. We aim to ensure that if this is the case we put in place sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

If we keep a pet in the nursery:

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal to keep as a pet.
- We carry out a risk assessment with an animal expert, to take account of any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure that this is cleaned out regularly. Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- We ensure that the pet is fed and cared for correctly at all times, including at weekends and in holidays.
- We register the animal with a local vet.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up to date and recorded.
- Children are taught how to handle and care for the animal correctly, and are supervised at all times.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal soil or bedding.
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. Staff explain the importance of this to the children
- Children are encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited

When an animal is brought into nursery on a one-off visit:

- If animals are brought in to the nursery (by visitors, to show the children) they are the responsibility of the owner.
- The Manager carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.



- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

When we go on an outing to a farm:

- Before an outing to a farm can take place the Manager must carry out a risk assessment, using their own research and the farm’s relevant risk assessments. The Manager should update the nursery’s outings risk assessment and outings procedure to take account of any safety issues they identify.
- We check that the farm has suitable hand washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area
- We ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, taking into account the needs of the children
- We explain to the children that they will not be allowed to eat or drink anything, including crisps and sweets, or place their hands in their mouths, while touring the farm because of the risk of infection and explain why
- We ensure suitable precautions are in place where appropriate e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where animals are isolated.
- The nurseries outing procedure will be followed
- **During the visit**
- If children are in contact with, or feeding animals, we will warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards, and explain why
- We will encourage children to leave comforters (e.g. soft toys and blankets) and dummies either at nursery, in the transport used or in a bag carried by a member of staff to ensure cross-contamination is limited
- After contact with animals and particularly before eating and drinking, we will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing will be supervised. We will always explain why the children need to do this
- Meals, breaks or snacks will be taken well away from the areas where animals are kept and children will be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground. Any crops produced on the farm will be thoroughly washed in potable water before consumption
- We will ensure children do not consume unpasteurised produce e.g. milk or cheese
- Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection and children will be warned against touching it. If they do touch it, we will ensure that they thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately
- We will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash their hands thoroughly before departure
- We will ensure footwear and clothing is as free as possible from faecal materials.

This policy was updated and reviewed in:

Reviewed date	Name	Signature
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September 2015	Stuart Watt	
May 2016	Stuart Watt	
August 2016	Stuart Watt	
September 2016	Stuart Watt	
April 2017	Stuart Watt	
April 2018	Lindy Baldwin	
August 2018	Lindy Baldwin	
April 2019	Lindy Baldwin	
May 2019	Stuart Watt	
January 2020	Stuart Watt	
January 2021	Stuart Watt	
January 2022	Stuart Watt	
March 2023	Stuart Watt	
June 2023	Stuart Watt	