

Safety & Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

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 setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting - Visiting

- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person 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 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 their owner.
- 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. This may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- The supervision of children on 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
www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm

Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf

Authorisation & Review

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Wroughton Preschool
Held on	_____
Date to be reviewed	Yearly at AGM
Signed on behalf of the management committee	_____
Name of signatory	_____
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Chairperson
