

## Animals in the setting

### *Policy Statement*

Children learn about the natural world, all living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of The Early Years Foundation Stage. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is within sensible hygiene and safety controls.

### *Procedures*

#### *Animals in the setting*

- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person, accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature visiting the setting.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure they are kept safe.
- Our staff or visitors are knowledgeable of the animal's welfare and dietary needs of the creature and supervise them at all times.
- We teach the children how to safely handle the animal and not to have contact with any droppings or soiled bedding.
- We wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If creatures are brought in by visitors the creatures remain the responsibility of the owner.
- The owner carries out their own risk assessment.

#### *Visits to farms*

- Before a visit to a farm, we carry out a risk assessment – this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which must be viewed.
- We contact the venue just before visiting to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been a recent outbreak the visit will be reviewed and if necessary postponed.
- We follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash their hands frequently with soap or antibacterial hand gel.
- Suitable footwear worn to farms must be cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure. If necessary footwear will be changed.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid any contact with ewes and to consult their midwife or GP about the visit.
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