

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment

Providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks.

Animals in the Setting Policy

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals, and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children will learn how to take care and gain an understanding of how animals and other living creatures grow and develop. Contact with animals and other living creatures, will be in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal of creature to keep 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.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safety.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, are up-to-date and recorded.
- 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 animals' soil or soiled bedding.
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are bought 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 of hygiene issues will be addressed.