

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, including animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Through these experiences, children develop an understanding of how to care for living things and how they grow and change.

We recognise that contact with animals can be beneficial to children's learning and development. However, all interactions will be carefully managed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both children and animals, with appropriate hygiene and risk control measures in place at all times.

Procedures

- We take into account the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or living creature to be kept in the setting.
- A comprehensive risk assessment is carried out with a knowledgeable and competent person, identifying any potential hygiene or safety risks associated with the animal. This is reviewed regularly.
- We provide suitable, secure, and clean housing for the animal, which is maintained and cleaned regularly to ensure a safe environment for both the animal and the children.
- Animals are provided with the appropriate food, water, and care, in line with their specific needs and routines.
- Arrangements are made to ensure the ongoing care of the animal during weekends and holidays.
- We ensure that all vaccinations, treatments, and health checks are up to date and appropriately recorded where required.
- Children are taught how to handle animals gently and respectfully and are always supervised during any interaction.
- Children are required to wash their hands thoroughly after handling animals, and they are not permitted to touch animal waste, soiled bedding, or food preparation areas.
- Staff must wear disposable gloves when cleaning animal enclosures or handling soiled materials, and must follow appropriate hygiene procedures afterwards.

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- Animals brought into the setting by visitors remain the full responsibility of their owner.
- Visitors must provide a risk assessment, outlining how the animal will be managed safely, including handling procedures and hygiene precautions, before the visit takes place.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains compliant with EYFS requirements and best practice in health, safety, and animal welfare.