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.

Animal Risk/Benefit Analysis

This risk/benefit analysis applies for visiting animals. These would also need individually assessing before they could visit the pre-school.

Procedures

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.
Animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the 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 out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
The outings procedure is followed.
Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.