

8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other 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 in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting

- Animals are sometimes brought in by visitors to show the children. They are the responsibility of their owner
- The owner may carry out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed
- We carry out a risk assessment, written if we consider it necessary, with a knowledgeable person, accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animals
- Children are taught correct handling and care of animals and are supervised
- Children wash their hands after handling animals and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.

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 will be viewed
- The 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)

Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

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| This policy was adopted at a meeting of | Filton Park Preschool Playgroup | (name of provider) |
| Held on | | (date) |
| Date to be reviewed | Nov/Dec 2020 | (date) |
| Signed on behalf of the management committee | | |
| Name of signatory | Adrian Reed | |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) | Chair | |