

# Animals in Pre-School Policy



## 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 Pre-School or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

## EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.4 Health and well-being	2.3 Supporting learning	3.3 The learning environment	4.1 Play and exploration 4.4 Knowledge and understanding of the world

## Procedures

### *Animals in Pre-School as pets*

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting a creature to keep as a pet in Pre-School.
- We provide suitable housing for the creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- Animals or creatures kept by, or visiting, Pre-School are free from disease and safe to be with children, and do not pose a health risk.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature 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 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.

## Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- [www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm)

## Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)
- [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf)

## Adoption of policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ name of setting  
Held on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)  
Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ (date)  
Signed on behalf of the Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_  
Role of signatory (e.g. Chair) \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Policy 1.14]*