

Animals in the Nursery

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 when in the nursery or when on a visit. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

- We take account the views of the parents and children when selecting an animal to keep as a pet in the nursery.
- We carry out a risk assessment on the animal/activity.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure it is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangement for holiday care for the animal.
- We will ensure we are registered with a local vet when we keep an animal as a pet.
- Children are taught the correct handling and care of the animal and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal waste or soiled bedding.
- Practitioners wear disposable gloves and apron when cleaning or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals are brought in to the nursery by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner. A full risk assessment will be carried out prior to the visits and parents will be notified in advance.