

Promoting health and hygiene



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 in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals visiting the setting

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to visit the setting.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner.
- The owner/playgroup 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.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
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