



Little 1 Nursery

## 8.6 Animal Health and Safety Policy

At Little 1 Nursery we recognise the value animals and pets can bring to the emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for animals and pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

Our safety procedures are:

- A full documented risk assessment is completed, including considerations for children with any allergies.
- All pets are provided with suitable housing and we ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safe.
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. Staff explain the importance of this to the children
- Children are encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

### ***Pets from home***

- If a child brings a pet from home to visit the nursery as a planned activity, parents of all children who will be in contact or in the same area as the pet are informed. We obtain written permission from parents to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia. We complete a full, documented risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

### ***Visits to farms***

- Before a farm visit a risk assessment is carried out- this may take account of safety factors listed in the farms own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- We check that the farm has suitable hand washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand

dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area.

- We ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, taking into account the needs of the children.
- We ensure suitable precautions are in place where appropriate, e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where animals are isolated.

### ***During the visit***

- If children are in contact with, or feeding animals, we will warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards, and explain why
- We will encourage children to leave comforters (e.g. soft toys and blankets) and dummies either at nursery, in the transport used or in a bag carried by a member of staff to ensure cross-contamination is limited
- After contact with animals and particularly before eating and drinking, we will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing will be supervised. We will always explain why the children need to do this
- Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection and children will be warned against touching it. If they do touch it, we will ensure that they thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately
- We will ensure footwear and clothing is as free as possible from faecal materials.