

Animal Health and Safety

Nursery Animals

The children have the opportunity to experience the care and welfare of animals in our setting and we encourage them to play an active part in their care. This may be by assisting the staff in feeding and cleaning out of their homes.

We have a strict health and safety procedure that all staff adhere to when dealing with our animals:

- Pets are not allowed any where in the setting, near food, dishes, work tops or food preparation areas
- Children are encouraged to handle the animals, but to wash their hands with soap after and are encouraged not to put their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will support this by explaining to the children the importance of this and the reasons as to why not.
- Children with allergies will be kept away from the animals at all times.

Nursery Visits to Farms

- A senior member of staff must make a site visit before an outing to a farm can be arranged. We will check the farm is well managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible, and that suitable First Aid arrangements are made. Animals should be prohibited from any outdoor picnic areas.
- We will check that the farm has suitable washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area. Staff will ensure that all children will wash and dry their hands following contact with the animals.
- We will ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, taking into account the age and stage of development of the children. Risk assessments and Outings forms will be completed prior to the visit. Parental permission is necessary for all trips and travel arrangements will be confirmed for individual outings.
- We will ensure the children will not eat or drink anything, or place their hands in their mouths, whilst touring the farm due to the risk of infection. The staff will endeavor to portrair this to the children in a way they are able to understand.
- We will ensure exceptional supervision of the children is maintained during the visit, and the educational learning is of a high standard.

Date of Policy	Signed on behalf of the setting	Date of review
September 2015		September 22