

Cold Ash Pre-school: Animals in Setting Policy

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation (including fire safety and hygiene requirements).

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, within pre-school through visits from individuals or companies. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures:

Animals in the setting:

- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- The owner will detail how the animal or creature is to be handled and deal with any hygiene issues.

Visits from farms/companies:

- Before a visit from a farm/company, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's/companies own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.

Legal framework:

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance:

- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)