

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

Providers must keep premises and equipment clean, and be aware of, and comply with, requirements of health and safety legislation (including hygiene requirements).

Reviewed May 2021 KY

### **8.6 Animals in the setting**

#### **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 in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

#### **Procedures**

##### *Animals in the setting*

- We do not have any pets in the setting.
- We take account of the views of parents and children when allowing an animal or creature in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have to any animals or creatures.
- 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 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.

##### *Visits to farms*

- Before a visit to a farm, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- We follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

## Legal framework

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

## Further guidance

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

This policy was adopted by	<u>Caversham Heights Pre-school</u>	(name of provider)
On	<u>4<sup>th</sup> December 2018/reviewed 4<sup>th</sup></u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>May 2021</u>	
Signed on behalf of the management committee	<u>May 2022</u>	(date)
Name of signatory	<u>Katharine Yarwood</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>Supervisor</u>	