

General 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).

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

Procedures

Animals in the setting

- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of the 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.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - 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.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.

- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris 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 at a board meeting of Hopscotch Playgroup, held on the 19th March 2013.

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