



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).

8.6 Animals in pre-school Legal framework

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

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 pre-school or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

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.

Visits to pre-school

- No more than two animals at any onetime will be allowed into pre-school.
- All animals will have their owners present and be monitored at all times.

Policy adopted on 18/8/15, Reviewed 16/2/17, 3/6/18, Updated 16/10/19

Signed on behalf of Bagshot Pre-school Susan Michel

Role within the Pre-school Manager

Further guidance: Health and Safety Regulation...A short Guide (HSE 2003)

