

Sunbeams Play

Promoting health and hygiene

1.14 Animals in the setting

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. 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.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.4 Health and well-being	2.3 Supporting learning	3.3 The learning environment	4.1 Play and exploration 4.4 Knowledge and understanding of the world

Procedures

- We would take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting.
- We would carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We would provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We would ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We would make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We would register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We would make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded, and would make sure;
- 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.

- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- 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

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm

Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	_____	name of setting
Held on	_____	(date)
Date to be reviewed	_____	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	_____	
Name of signatory	_____	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	_____	