



Bright Eyes Childcare

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

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet 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 provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safe.
- We involve children in the care routines of animals within the setting.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times and use this to develop children's understanding of the benefits of effective nutrition for animals and themselves.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded.
- 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.
- All children in the setting will be offered time with the animals. If any parent wishes for their child not to have contact, they must let the manager know.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors such as machinery, hand washing facilities and contamination.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and will not be worn indoors.

Date of Policy: January 2018

Signed By: Haley Blake – Nursery Manager