

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 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 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, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- The animal/creature is cared for;
 - In suitable, clean, safe housing
 - Is offered appropriate food at appropriate times
 - With arrangements for weekend/holiday care
- If appropriate, we would register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance ensuring all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, were up-to-date and recorded.
- We teach children:
 - the correct handling and care of the animal /creature and supervise them at all times
 - to wash their hands after handling the animal/creature and ensure they do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We 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 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.

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>CROWMARSH PRE-SCHOOL</u>	(name of provider)
On	<u>02 FEB 2016</u>	(date)
Date to be reviewed	<u>FEB 2018</u>	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	<u><i>Reynolds</i></u>	
Name of signatory	<u>MICHELLE REYNOLDS</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	<u>CO-CHAIR</u>	