



Promoting health and hygiene

HH1 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.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
- 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 safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- 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.
- Staff member responsible for the visit, with advice from 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.

Animals brought in by visitors

- The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.

The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)
www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/information.htm
- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

LITTLE FISHES PRESCHOOL

Held on

Policy reviewed Spring 2023

Date to be reviewed

Spring Term 2025

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Tracy Parkins – Manager

Vicky Baker - Chairperson

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)