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Animals in the Preschool Setting

Policy Statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning and Development Requirements of Early Years Foundation Stage (2021). 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 Preschool as Pets:

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting a creature (or animal) 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 creature
- We provide suitable housing for the 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 creature
- If necessary, we register with a local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance
- If appropriate, we make sure all vaccinations and other health measures, such as deworming, are up-to-date and recorded
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the creature and do not have contact with the animal soil or soiled bedding
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding
- If 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 is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed

Visits to Farms

- Before a visit to a farm, a risk assessment is carried out- this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be reviewed
- The outings procedure is followed
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals
- Outdoor footwear is worn to farm visits is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors



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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 updated at a meeting of: The Committee of Bradpole Preschool

Held during the Autumn Term 2023

Date to be reviewed: Autumn Term 2024