



General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must promote the good health of the children, take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action when they are ill.

Promoting health and hygiene

Animals in the setting

Policy Statement

Children learn about nature and the plants and the animals that live around us - as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. It is possible therefore that they will come into contact with animals or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool

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/carers and children when choosing an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person to ensure that any hygiene/safety risks posed by the animal/creature are considered.
 - We provide correct housing for the animal/creature and ensure it is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
 - We ensure the correct food is provided at the right times.
 - We make arrangements for weekend/holiday care.
 - We register with a vet and take out appropriate pet care 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/creature and are always supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal/creature and do not have any contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Staff wear disposable gloves and disposable aprons when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals/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/creature 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 farms own risk assessment which should be viewed.
 - The outings procedure is followed.

- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

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