

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. East Leake Pre-School Playgroup aims to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

Note: Playgroup does not currently have any pets

- Playgroup takes 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 with any animals or creatures.
- Playgroup carries out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Playgroup provides suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensures this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- The staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- Playgroup makes arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- Playgroup registers with the local vet and takes out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- Playgroup makes sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up-to-date and recorded.
- Playgroup teaches children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervises them at all times.
- Playgroup ensures that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- We wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.

Animals visiting the setting

- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors on pre – arranged visits to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- Both Playgroup and the owner carry out risk assessments, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- Playgroup does not permit dogs to be brought to the setting at dropping off and pick up times.

Visits to farms

- Before a visit to a farm, Playgroup carries out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- Playgroup contacts the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, Playgroup will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- Playgroup follows its outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- Playgroup advises staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

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	East Leake Pre-School Playgroup		(name of provider)
On	16/01/2018		(date)
Date to be reviewed	January 2019		(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee			
Name of signatory	Sara Last	Debbie Porter	Tamsin Wisher
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Manager	Co- Chair	Co – Chair