



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 to any animals or creatures.
- **Our current pets in our setting are two goldfish.**
- **We wear disposable gloves when cleaning the fish tank.**
- 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.
- Our staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal or creature and supervise them at all times.
- We obviously do not handle the goldfish but if we have any visiting animals such as dogs or rabbits to our pre-school we ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or 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.

Visits by mobile farms

- Before we are visited by a mobile farm, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- We contact the mobile farm 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, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

This policy was adopted by:	Mulberry Pre-School
On (date):	1 September 2020
Date to be reviewed:	June 2021
Signed on behalf of the provider:	George
Name of signatory:	Georgina Stevens
Role of signatory:	Chair