

Safety Surrounding Animals



Policy statement

At Rudgwick Pre-school 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 curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting, during visits or on Forest Childcare Outings. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe	2.1 Respecting each other	3.3 The learning environment 3.4 The wider context	4.4 Personal, social and emotional development

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring Engagement	Active Learning Motivation	Creating and Thinking Critically - Thinking
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Procedures

Animals visiting the setting

- ◆ If you bring a dog to pre-school when dropping off or collecting your child, we ask you tie it up securely away from the entrance area or access gates to avoid children being frightened.
- ◆ If animals or creatures are brought in by parents/carers or visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of the owner who stays throughout the visit.
- ◆ Staff remain close at hand and vigilant at all times.
- ◆ A risk assessment will be carried out with the owner prior to the visit, detailing how the animal is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- ◆ Children will be supervised when washing their hands following the visit.

Visits to farms

- ◆ Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out – this will take account of safety

factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.

- ◆ Our 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.
- ◆ We contact 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, [we/I] 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.

Forest Childcare Outings

- ◆ Before a Forest Childcare Outing a risk assessment is carried out.
- ◆ Our outings procedure is followed.
- ◆ Anti-bacterial gel will be used if needed during outing following contact with animals and children will wash their hands upon return from outing.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Rudgwick Pre-school

Held on

15th July 2022

Date to be reviewed

15th July 2024

Signed on behalf of the management committee

William Baldwin

Name of signatory

William Baldwin

Role of signatory

Chairperson

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 Further guidance
- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

Other useful publications

- ◆ The Five Principles of Forest Childcare

<http://www.kidstogo.co.uk/childminders/forestchildcare.html#Principle>

