

8.6 Animals in the setting

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls, which includes checking if the children have any allergies to animals.

Procedures

- Pets belonging to parents, visitors or staff are not allowed into Pre-School's outside or inside areas at any time, except for assistance dogs.

Animal Visits to the setting

- Before a visit parents are asked if their children have any allergies to any animals or creatures.
- Animals or creatures brought in for an organised visit by a professional company e.g. an educational mobile farm, are the responsibility of the company's representative. The company carries out a risk assessment, which is shared with Pre-School before the visit, detailing how the animals or creatures are to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.

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 viewed.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.

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 at a meeting of

Crick Pre-School

Held on

29th April 2018

Last reviewed

27th April 2022

Date to be reviewed

April 2023

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory

Clare Thompson

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)

Chair