

## **The Enchanted Wood Day Nursery Ltd: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

### **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 nursery or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

#### **Procedures**

##### *Animals in the nursery as pets*

- We take into account the views of parents and children, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have to any animals or creatures when selecting a pet for the nursery.
- 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 members are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- We plan for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We register with the local vet, take out appropriate medical insurance and 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 or creature and are supervised at all times.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Practitioners wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

- 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 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.
- 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 will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff members 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)