



Animals In The Setting Policy

Pre-school Manager: Nicky Benson-Dare

This policy will be reviewed annually. It will also be revised following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance and procedures.

Statement

Children at St Peter's Busy Bees Pre-school 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 on visits.

Aim

We aim to enable the children to come in to contact with animals, or other living creatures, in a safe and controlled way.

Procedures

Animals in the setting.

- Animals visiting the setting must be free from disease and safe to be with children. They must not pose a health risk and are the responsibility of the owner.
- The pet 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.
- We carry out a risk assessment for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Children do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding, and staff wear disposable gloves.
- We check any known allergy details of all the children - these are recorded on each child's application form. No animal is allowed near the setting if any child or adult is allergic to it.
- We ensure children are taught correct handling and care of the animals or creatures and that they are supervised at all times.

Visits to farms

- A risk assessment is carried out before visiting a farm and may include taking into account the safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- The Outings and Visits procedures are 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 on the return to pre-school