



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. Tansor Playgroup does not keep animals as pets.

Procedures

Animals visiting the setting. Tansor playgroup do not regularly have animals visiting the setting but in cases where this does happen we will apply the following procedure:

- We ensure that the children are aware that an animal will be visiting the playgroup, talk to them about the type of animal and ensure that they are comfortable with the visit.
- If any child is uncomfortable, the child will be kept a comfortable distance from the animal and if necessary will be distracted with other activities until the animal has left the setting.
- We ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Any animals or creatures brought in by visitors to show the children 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 to farms

- Before a visit to a 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 follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure 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	Tansor Playgroup Committee
Held on	19 th January 2010
Signed on behalf of Tansor Playgroup Committee	Faye Betts
Role of signatory	Jt Chair of Playgroup Committee
This policy was reviewed and updated on	1 st September 2012
Reviewed on behalf of Tansor Playgroup Committee	Adrian Smith
Role of reviewer	Chair of Playgroup Committee
This policy was reviewed and updated on	18 th January 2017
Reviewed on behalf of Tansor Playgroup Committee	Sue Bradley
Role of reviewer	Co-Chair of Playgroup Committee