



## 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 procedures:*

- We take account of the views of parents and children when deciding whether to have an animal or creature visit the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have to any animals or creatures.
- 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 or creature 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 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.
- 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.
- We advise staff 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)

## Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Tensor Playgroup Committee

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Held on

19<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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Signed on behalf of Tensor Playgroup Committee

Faye Betts

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Role of signatory

Jt Chair of Playgroup Committee

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This policy was reviewed and updated on

1<sup>st</sup> September 2012

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Reviewed on behalf of Tensor Playgroup Committee

Adrian Smith

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Role of reviewer

Chair of Playgroup Committee

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This policy was reviewed and updated on

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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Reviewed on behalf of Tensor Playgroup Committee

Sue Bradley

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Role of reviewer

Co-Chair of Playgroup Committee

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This policy was reviewed and updated on

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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Reviewed on behalf of Tensor Playgroup Committee

Karena Corkill

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Role of reviewer

Co-Chair of Playgroup Committee

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