



## 01 Health and safety procedures

### 01.18 Animals and pets

#### 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

- There will be no new pets introduced to the setting during the Covid-19 outbreak. Arrangements must be made immediately for any current pets kept within the setting to be temporarily re-homed in case the setting has to close. In the interim the pets may stay at the setting. Views of parents and children are considered when selecting a pet for the setting.
- Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
- A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Suitable housing for the animal is provided and is regularly cleaned and maintained.
- The correct food is offered at the right times and staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs.
- Arrangements are made for weekend and holiday care for the animal/creature.
- There is appropriate pet health care insurance or other contingencies agreed and put in place to pay for veterinary care and the animal is registered with a local vet.
- All vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming are up to date.
- Children are taught correct handling of the pet and are always supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the pet and do not have contact with animal faeces, or soiled bedding.
- Members of staff wear single use vinyl/latex free gloves when cleaning/handling soiled bedding.
- Snakes and some other reptiles are not suitable pets for the setting due to infection risks.



- The supervisor will check with the owners/directors/trustees before introducing a new pet into the setting.

### **Animals bought in by visitors**

- The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.

The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

### **Further guidance**

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Tansor Playgroup Committee
Held on	19 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> January 2017
Reviewed on behalf of Tansor Playgroup Committee	Sue Bradley
Role of reviewer	Co-Chair of Playgroup Committee

This policy was reviewed and updated on	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
Reviewed on behalf of Tansor Playgroup Committee	Karena Corkill
Role of reviewer	Co-Chair of Playgroup Committee



1 September 2021

Reviewed on behalf of Tansor Playgroup Committee

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Karena Corkill

Role of reviewer

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Co-Chair of Playgroup Committee

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