

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Suitable Premises, Environment and Equipment

Outdoor and indoor spaces, furniture and toys must be safe and suitable for their purpose.

8.6 Animals in the setting (January 2023)

Policy Statement

Children 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 in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the 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.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003)
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf