

# Animals in the Centre Policy V.2

June 14

# 2014

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/EarlyYearsCentre/AnimalsintheCentrePolicy  
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# Policy

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**Title:** Animals in the Centre

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**From:** Early Years Centre

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010; reviewed  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

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In this Centre we believe children learn best by first hand experiences. Children will learn about the natural world, animals and other living creatures. This means children could come in contact with animals or living creatures, either in the centre or on visits. We aim to ensure every effort will be made to use sensible hygiene and safety controls.

## *Animals in the Centre as pets*

- We take into account the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting.
- All animals are carefully chosen in regards to care, temperament, health risks and appropriateness for young children.
- We will carry out a risk assessment on the animal or creature taking extra notice of hygiene and safety.
- We will provide suitable housing for the animals or creatures and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We will ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We will make arrangement for the animals or creatures to have weekend and holiday care.
- When appropriate we will register with local vets.
- When appropriate we will ensure vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded.
- All children are taught how to handle any animal or creature correctly.
- Children are encouraged to wash their hands after every time they handle the animal or creature. They also will not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- All staff should wear disposable gloves when cleaning out the housing and soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the owner.
- The owner will carry out a risk assessment detailing how the animal should be handled and any safety or hygiene issues.

## *Visits to a farm*

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out
- The outings procedure is followed.

# Policy

- Outdoor footwear worn to visit a farm are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.