



Interacting with and learning about live animals allows the children the opportunity to learn in a much deeper and richer way.

It also teaches children about: care, responsibility and sometimes sadly, life and death.

Nursery Pets

We may have Giant Snail and/or Fish as pets in our ELC. Also we may have visits of animals and pets to the nursery to support the learning and development of our learners.

Aims

- Learning about how to care for an animal or creature; suitable housing, how to keep it clean and what to feed it.
- Making sure arrangements are made for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- How to hold the animal correctly.
- The importance of hand hygiene.
- If animals are brought in by visitors, staff or other parents 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.

Our Safety Procedures

- Parents/Carers are informed about their child being involved in caring for the animal at nursery when applicable.
- A full documented risk assessment is completed, including considerations for children with any allergies.
- All pets are homed in an appropriate and secure area of the setting, with areas that are quiet and space away from the children, when needed.
- Only staff have responsibility for cleaning out the animals (where applicable). Protective equipment such as gloves and aprons are used.
- We ensure all pets are child-friendly.
- Children will wash their hands with soap and water before and after handling the animals, and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while pets are being handled. Staff will explain the importance of this to the children.
- Children are encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

Pets from home

- If a child brings a pet from home to visit the nursery as a planned activity, parents of all children who will be in contact or in the same area as the pet are informed. We shall work with parents to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia.
- We complete a full, documented risk assessment prior to the pet visiting and analyse any risks before this type of activity is authorised.
- Pets are not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited.

See also - (Legal Framework) The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Animal Welfare: 2010 to 2015, (Further Guidance) Health and Safety Regulations 2003

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