

**Animals in the setting Policy:**

**Our Aim:**

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/outings in our local community. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls. As a setting we aim to organise annual experiences where we care for animals such as chicks, tadpoles and caterpillars to introduce life cycles and stages of growth in a hands on way/real life context.

**Animals in the setting:**

We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature and ensure that none of our current cohort of children or staff have any know allergies to specific animals. If an allergy is present, we will try to adapt visits/outings so that all adults and children are able to participate. We teach children the correct handling and care of the animal/creature and supervise them at all times and ensure that children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal faeces or soiled bedding. Children will only be able to touch animals once consent has been gained from parent/carers and where an allergy is present, we will inform parents to administer any medication needed prior to coming to Playgroup in preparation. Parents /carers collecting children with a dog will be required to remain outside the gate/ tie the dog to the fence outside before entering the outdoor area.

**If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.**

**Visits to farms or other venues where animals are present:**

* Before a visit to a farm or additional venue, we carry out a risk assessment
* 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 Fowlmere Playgroup’s 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.

This policy was adopted by………………………………… Fowlmere Playgroup……………..

On ………………… Feb 2019 ………………………….

Date to be reviewed …………………...June 2024…………………………

Signed on behalf of the management committee…………………………………………….

Name of signatory……………………Kayleigh Holwell…………………………………

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)…………………Chairperson…………………...

Updated June 2021 Jasmine Redrup

Reviewed June 2022 Verity Smith

Updated June 2023 Verity Smith