



Animal Health and Safety

We recognise the value animals and pets can bring emotional needs of children and adults. Caring for animals and pets also gives children the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

Nursery pets

We may have nursery pets. Also, we may have visits from animals and pets to the nursery to support the learning and development of children.

Our safety procedures are -

- Parents are informed about their child being involved in caring for the animals at the 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 children when needed
- Only staff have responsibility for cleaning out the animals (where applicable), and protective equipment such as gloves and aprons is used.
- We ensure all pets are child-friendly. Pets are not allowed near food, plates, work tops 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 whilst 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