

**Safeguarding and welfare requirement: Safety**

Providers must take responsible steps to ensure the safety of Children staff and others on the premises.

**Farm nursery**

**Policy statement**

**Farm animals:**

Due to the location of our nursery. We will always be close to farm animals; the animals on the farm include Sheep, dogs, cattle and poultry. The position of the nursery is safe and secure from the farm buildings, sheds and fields.

At times, the sheep will be in the field adjacent to our outdoor space. However, the fence will be suitable and secure. The children will never be in close contact of the cattle as the sheds and fields are in another farm steading.

The working farm dogs stay in secure kennels and will be unable to access the nursery.

- A full risk assessment will be in place and followed.
- All gates, fences and areas will be regularly checked to ensure they are secure.
- The farmer and shepherds will have full awareness of the expectations and safety boundaries.
- Depending on the time of year, trips to the farm will be allowed.
- A risk assessment and good communication with the farmer must happen before leaving the secure area.
- The farmer will be updated on the routines and will be aware of times when we will be walking to the woodland areas.
- The children will be discouraged from touching any farm animals, but this may happen, and so hand sanitiser and hand wash must be available at all times.

**Visits to the farm:**

- Before a visit to the farm a risk assessment is carried out by a staff member – this may take account of safety factors depending on the time of year, therefore a specific assessment must be completed each time as well as the overarching risk assessment.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Staff ratios will be higher.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to the farms are cleaned of mud and debris and should not be worn indoors.
- All wellies and waterproofs will be washed down after visiting.
- The children must be encouraged not to touch the animals, unless feeding lambs.
- The farmer will be told in advance of a visit to the farm or a walk out of the secure play area.
- Discussions with the farmer must happen prior to a visit to ensure the safety of the children.
- Children must not use any of the transport equipment.

- Children can sit on the transport equipment when switched off.
  - All employees and people who live on the farm will be made aware of our safeguarding policy and expectations.
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- A site visit must be made by a senior member of staff before an outing to a farm can be arranged. We check that the farm is well-managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable first aid arrangements are made.
  - We check that the farm has suitable washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area
  - We will ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children, taking into account the age and stage of development of the children
  - We will explain to the children that they will not be allowed to eat or drink anything, including crisps and sweets, or place their hands in their mouths, while touring the farm because of the risk of infection and explain why
  - We will ensure suitable precautions are in place where appropriate e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where animals are isolated.

**During the visit**

- If children are in contact with, or feeding animals, we will warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards, and explain why
- We will encourage children to leave comforters (e.g. soft toys and blankets) and dummies either at nursery, in the transport used or in a bag carried by a member of staff to ensure cross-contamination is limited
- After contact with animals and particularly before eating and drinking, we will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing will be supervised. We will always explain why the children need to do this
- Meals, breaks or snacks will be taken well away from the areas where animals are kept and children will be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground. Any crops produced on the farm will be thoroughly washed in portable water before consumption
- We will ensure children do not consume unpasteurised produce, e.g. milk or cheese
- Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection and children will be warned against touching it. If they do touch it, we will ensure that they thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately
- We will ensure all children, staff and volunteers wash their hands thoroughly before departure
- We will ensure footwear and clothing is as free as possible from faecal materials.

This policy was adopted by \_\_\_\_\_  
 On \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed on behalf of provider \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Role of signatory \_\_\_\_\_