



Animals in the setting

Policy statement

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either at Southwell Smiley Faces or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

Animals at Southwell Smiley Faces as pets

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet at Southwell Smiley Faces.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after feeding or handling the animal or creature.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children 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.

Visits

- Before a visit Southwell Smiley Faces carry out a risk assessment.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.

This policy is applicable to both Pre-School and Out of School Club

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999