**Tring Stepping Stones Preschool**

**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 in the setting or during visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

**Procedures**

*Animals in the setting*

* We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to be brought in and shown to the children.
* We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
* If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of the owner.
* Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature.
* 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.
* At pick up and drop of times we would ask parents to keep their dogs on a lead.

*Visits to farms*

* Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm’s own risk assessment which should be viewed.
* 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.
* The outings procedure is followed.
* Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
* Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris 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.

**Further guidance**

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| This policy was adopted at a meeting of | Tring Stepping Stones pre-school |  |
| Held on |  |  |
| Date to be reviewed | **September 2024** |  |
| Signed on behalf of the management committee |  | |
| Name of signatory |  | |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) |  | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Staff name | Staff signature | Date read |
| Nicola Poulton |  |  |
| Lucy Brittain |  |  |
| Nicola Reynolds |  |  |
| Kim Smith |  |  |
| Jo Davis |  |  |

2012 review- no changes

2013 review- added that dogs are not allowed on the premises at pick up time.

Jan 2015 review- no changes

April 2016 review – section added about advice to pregnant persons

March 2017 review- added that 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.

April 2018- no changes

June 2019 – no changes

June 2020 – no changes

March 2022 - **Further guidance changed-**

Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Pre-school Learning Alliance 2009)

September 2023 – Removed line about dogs being tied to the lampost as parents now drop off and collect children individually from the top of the ramp.