



Animals

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

Procedures

Visits from farms/animals

Before a visit, we carry out a risk assessment - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's/owner'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.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn for the visit 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.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

