



Happy Bunnies Nursery

Animal Health and Safety Policy

September 2017

Sign.....

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Position.....

Date.....

Internal use only

Date of review	Author	Date for review
02/10/2019	Gemma Linton	September 2020

Animals and creatures in and out of our setting

Policy statement

Animals and creatures in any child care setting can significantly enhance children's education in all areas of their development, learning about our natural world, its animals and living creatures. However, animals and creatures can pose a risk of infection. They can also bring germs into our setting on their fur and feet etc. Happy Bunnies will take sensible precautions to help reduce the risk of infection to an acceptable level. Happy Bunnies will consider any allergies or anxieties before introducing any animals/creatures to a child whilst on site at nursery 0or on an outing. These steps will be taken to ensure the appropriate hygiene and safety of the child, persons on site and the care of the animals or creatures.

Pets

- If a child brings a pet from home to visit the nursery as a planned activity, parents of all children who will be in contact or in the same area as the pet will be informed. Written permission will be obtained from parents to ensure no child has an allergy or phobia. A full documented risk assessment will be completed prior to the visit and risks analysed before this type of activity is authorised. We will ensure the pet has had all relevant vaccinations, is registered with vets and is child-friendly
- Pets will not be allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals, and will be encouraged to not place their hands in their mouths during the activity. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children to enable them to make healthy choices moving forwards
- Children will be encouraged to leave their comforters and dummies away from the animals to ensure cross-contamination is limited
- When arranging an outing to a farm, staff will all be aware of the farm outing checklist (see below).

Checklist for visits to farms

- A site visit must be made by the Nursery manager and a suitable Risk assessor before an outing to a farm can be arranged. They will 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. Animals should be prohibited from any outdoor picnic areas, taking into account slurry pits and animals that are isolated (pig pens)
- We will 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 cannot 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 the children should be given the reasons for this
- 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 (pig pens)

During the visit

- If children are in contact with, or feeding animals, we will warn and encourage 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 foods that can be collected and brought back to nursery will be sent home with Parents/Carers and advice on how to wash/prepare/consume them.
- 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.