



Kilcreggan Early Learning and Childcare Centre



Animals in the Nursery and Farm Visits Policy



UNCRC:

Article 29 I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment

Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes encourage links to the real world. Many of our topics at the early stages may include reference to animals. However, animals, birds and fish may carry infections, which can be transmitted to humans. Strict hygiene procedures are therefore required when handling and caring for these creatures, to prevent illness. There may be opportunities for animals and their owners to visit the nursery.

Points to consider in relation to animals in the ELCC:

- Parents will be informed before an animal visits the ELCC to establish if a child has an allergy or phobia to a particular animal
- It is recommended that children are only allowed to handle animals under the supervision of the staff
- Staff are aware that all species of reptiles may carry the salmonella organism, particular care with hygiene will be taken when introducing these animals into the nursery
- Children must wash their hands thoroughly with liquid soap in warm running water after coming into contact with any animals
- This establishment, in considering safety precautions during open farm visits, refer to The Royal Highland Education Trust guidelines and the Health and Safety Executive guidelines - See Appendix 1
- An establishment risk assessment will be completed for any trip or outline, specific to the animal content

Kilcreggan Primary ELCC

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Appendix 1



Health and Safety Guidelines **The Royal Highland Education Trust**

1. Machinery

- Do not allow children to climb on machines in no-go areas
- Children may sit in the cab of a stationary tractor or combine. This can be done safely provided that an adult accompanies the children, the keys are removed, the handbrake is on, a low gear is engaged and that the vehicle is on level ground
- If observing any machinery in operation this should be done from a safe distance

2. The Animals

- Children should not touch animals except those within a designated petting area, at the teacher's discretion
- Where appropriate, double fencing will ensure that children do not have direct contact with other animals
- The farmer will make sure that you are protected from potentially aggressive animals such as bulls, boars and tups or cows, sows or ewes with their young. Visitors should be vaccinated against tetanus and all cuts or abrasions must be covered with a waterproof dressing before the visit
- To avoid potential infection, particularly gastric upsets, children should not eat on the farm and must be warned not to rub their eyes, nose or mouth during the farm tour

3. Petting Areas

- Children should only touch animals in the designated petting area



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- Hand washing facilities will be adjacent to the petting area
- Ensure that the children do not put their fingers in their mouths

- Do not allow children to kiss the animals

4. Zoonoses

- All farm animals naturally carry a range of diseases, some of which can also affect humans. These diseases are known as Zoonoses
- Visitors to farms can be affected by zoonoses, especially children who are more vulnerable to infection
- The most common zoonoses are covered in the Health and Safety Executive publication, 'Common Zoonoses in Agriculture'. To control risk of zoonoses, follow the above advice with regards to animals
- If a member of the group shows signs of illness after a visit, advise them or their parent/carer to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with farm animals
- Let the farmer know if a child falls ill after a visit

Note: This policy should be read in conjunction with our Infection Prevention and Control Policy.

Policy Links

Animal Magic: The benefits of being around and caring for animals across care settings (2018) Care Inspectorate

National Care Standards

1.6 I get the most out of life because the people and organisation who support and care for me have an enabling attitude and believe in my potential



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2.27 As a child, I can direct my own play and activities in the way that I choose, and freely access a wide range of experiences and resources suitable for my age and stage, which stimulate my natural curiosity, learning and creativity.

Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher along with the staff to monitor, evaluate and review the above arrangements and to adjust them according to need.