**ANIMALS IN BUSY BEES PRE-SCHOOL**

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Learning & Development Requirements of the EYFS. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits. Busy Bees ensures that any contact is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

**Procedures**

Animals in the setting

* A risk assessment is carried out with a knowledgeable person to take into account any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature;
* Busy Bees provides suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure that it is cleaned regularly and is kept safely;
* The animal or creature would be fed the correct food daily with fresh water;
* 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 handling the animal or creature;
* Staff wear disposable gloves and a protective apron when cleaning housing or soiled bedding;
* Written permission is obtained from parents/carers for children to handle, clean or care for the animal or creature;
* If animals or creatures are bought in by visitors to show children, they are the responsibility of their owner. The owner would carry 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 to farms

* Before any 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;
* Children will wash their hands after contact with animals;
* Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris and will not be worn indoors;
* The procedures outlined in the Outings policy will apply.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Busy Bees Pre-school Committee on 20 July 2011.

Reviewed: 1 September 2019

Signed on behalf of Busy Bees Pre-school Sally Evans (Chair)