



Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures as part of the Montessori and Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals or other living creatures either in the nursery setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

- We take into account the views of parents, children and staff when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet or to visit the nursery.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Suitable housing for the animal or creature is provided and we ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safe. Disposable gloves should be worn when cleaning is carried out and soiled materials disposed of safely and appropriately.
- We ensure the correct food and drink is provided for the animal or creature at the correct intervals.
- Adults demonstrate correct handling and care of the animal or creature and children are supervised at all times whilst the animal or creature is being handled and cared for by the children.
- Adults and children are reminded to wash their hands with soap and water after handling the animal or creature.
- If animals or creatures are brought in to the nursery by visitors or staff, they are the responsibility of the owner.
- The owner is requested to 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.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- If the nursery selects an animal or creature to have as a pet, the animal or creature will be registered with the local vet and ensure that all vaccinations and other regular health measures are carried out.

Signed for and on behalf of Foxglove Montessori Nursery

Lindsey Harvey (Principal) :

Date :

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