



Cairndow Community Childcare No.5 **ANIMALS IN THE NURSERY AND FARM VISITS**

This policy was written in conjunction with staff and committee of Cairndow Community Childcare Ltd.

Although we address the statement “to care for living things”, 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 nursery:

- Parents will be informed before an animal visits the nursery 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 A)

Appendix A – Guidelines - The Royal Highland Education Trust

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.

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.

Petting Areas

- Children should only touch animals in the designated petting area.
- 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.

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/guardian 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.