

Little Learners Pet Policy

Introduction/Overview Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the nursery or in visits. Little Learners aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls. The nursery manager is responsible for ensuring all staff understand and follow these procedures.

EYFS key themes and commitments.

A unique Child	Positive relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and developing
health and well being	supporting learning	the learning environment	Play & exploration Knowledge and understanding of the world

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the nursery. (we have none at present)
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for 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 and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- We are aware of the children's allergies and this is reflected in the handling times with the pet.