

BARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE.



ANIMALS IN THE NURSERY POLICY

DATE: SPRING 2009

TO BE REVIEWED: SPRING 2011



Policy for having Animals in the Nursery

The Early Years Foundation Stage guidance requires that we address the Early Learning Goal "Find out about, and identify, some features of living things, objects and events they observe." 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 is careful consideration before keeping any animal in the setting on a full time basis. There may be opportunities for animals and their owners to visit the Nursery and for children to visit animals in a farm or park.

- Parents/Carers will be informed before an animal visits the setting to establish if a child has an allergy or phobia to a particular animal.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- Children will be under close supervision with a member of staff and the owner of the visiting animal.
- Children will view the visiting animal from a safe distance.
- When appropriate children should be allowed to handle animals. Children are taught correct handling and care of animals/creatures.
- Staff are aware that all species of reptiles may carry salmonella organisms particular care with hygiene will be taken when introducing these animals into the setting.
- Children must wash their hands thoroughly with liquid soap in warm running water after coming in contact with any animals.
- We/visitor will provide suitable housing for the animal/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 weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.