



Pets in Nursery Policy

Policy statement

Little Elms recognises the value and joy animals bring to the daily lives of children. Animals are also a wonderful way of teaching children empathy, independence and responsibility.

Some of our nurseries have pets, which may include fish, rabbits, hamsters etc.

Introducing a New Pet

Where a nursery wishes to introduce a new pet, they must first carry out a risk assessment using the 'Risk Assessment Form'. The risk assessment should consider:

- Vaccinations
- Disease
- Possibility of injury a child or staff member could sustain
- Care of the pet
- Emergency and Planned events – for example, if the nursery was to close for a week, who would look after the pet.

This risk assessment must be shared with the Chief Operating Officer who will determine if the pet is an appropriate and safe animal to have on site at the nursery for the children and staff to care for.

Once approved, all areas detailed within the control measures of the risk assessment must be actioned and communicated to all team members.

Risk Assessment

For all pets at nursery, while the risks may be minimal it is important that each animal is risk assessed for suitability and safety. In most cases, appropriate control measures can be introduced to reduce risks to safe levels.

All control measures must be shared with, and understood by all colleagues at the nursery.