

 Health and safety procedures

**Animals and pets**

Frimley Green Pre-School does not currently have any pets. We do on occasion have animal visits.

* Views of parents and children are considered when selecting an animal for the setting.
* Staff will be aware of any allergies or issues individual children may have with any animals/creatures.
* A risk assessment is conducted and considers any hygiene and safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
* Suitable housing for the animal is provided and is regularly cleaned and maintained.
* The correct food is offered at the right times and staff are knowledgeable of the animal’s welfare and dietary needs.
* Arrangements are made for weekend and holiday care for the animal/creature.
* There is appropriate pet health care insurance or other contingencies agreed and put in place to pay for veterinary care and the animal is registered with a local vet.
* All vaccinations and health measures such as de-worming are up to date if required,
* Children are taught correct handling of the animal and are always supervised.
* Children wash their hands after handling the animal and do not have contact with animal faeces, or soiled bedding.
* Members of staff wear single use vinyl/latex free gloves when cleaning/handling soiled bedding.
* Snakes and some other reptiles are not suitable pets for the setting due to infection risks.
* The supervisor will check with the committee/trustees before introducing a new animal into the setting.

**Animals bought in by visitors.**

On occasion Frimley Green Pre-School has visits from commercial petting farms, animal handling e.g., Zoo lab and we adhere to their advice and company policy.

* The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.
* The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
* In the correct season, Frimley Green Pre-School may purchase minibeasts such as caterpillars from a reputable source in order to observe their life cycle, e.g., Insect Lore. The creatures are kept in accordance with the above and guidelines from the providing company

**Further guidance**

[Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control](https://portal.eyalliance.org.uk/Shop#!prod/43aaf2a6-7364-ea11-a811-000d3a0bad7c/curr/GBP) (Alliance 2009)

[www.HSE.gov.uk](http://www.HSE.gov.uk)

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