

CASTLE DOUGLAS NURSERY (ELCC)

POLICY REGARDING ANIMALS IN NURSERY

Curriculum for Excellence includes learning outcomes regarding the care of living things. Animals, birds and fish may, however, carry infections, which can be transmitted to humans. Strict hygiene procedures are, therefore, required when handling or caring for these creatures to prevent illness.

Staff, without the help of children, should clean out any animal tanks, hutches and the like which are kept in Nursery on a full time basis e.g. fish. Equipment used for this purpose should be sterilised with a bactericidal cleaner after use, and stored out of reach of children. Staff hand washing is also of paramount importance.

There may be opportunities for animals and their owners to visit the Nursery. The following points must be considered in relation to this:

- Parents must be informed before any animal visits the Nursery to establish if any child has an allergy or phobia to a particular animal
- It may be advisable for the children to view the visiting animal from a safe distance e.g. by looking through a window to outside
- Staff should be aware that all species of reptiles may carry the salmonella organism. Particular care must be taken with hygiene 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

For guidance relating to safety precautions during visits out of Nursery e.g. to a farm please refer to Dumfries and Galloway Council's Guidelines for this. Some places e.g. Cream of Galloway also provide their own guidance and risk assessment information.

Fiona Baird

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Next update due January 2021