

ANIMAL AND PET POLICY

Having a relationship with animals can help children develop a caring approach and skills such as nurturing, responsibility, empathy and improved communication. Having animals in an early childhood environment enables children who are not otherwise exposed to animals learn these skills. The animals will become part of the daily educational program and lead to activities and learning about other animals.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE		
1.1	Program	The educational program enhances each child’s learning and development.
QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.1.2	Health Practices and Procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

RELATED POLICIES

Educational Program Policy Health and Safety Policy	Supervision Policy
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PURPOSE

Aim of Policy The aim and objectives of this policy are:

- To alert families and guardians of the animals kept at the centre
- To inform families and guardians of the benefit of having animals at the centre
- To inform families and guardians of the management of such animals.

SCOPE

This policy applies to management and staff of the Service.

Management, Staff, Students, Volunteer and Visitor Involvement

- Educators are responsible for assessing any situation in the Education and Care Service where animals are involved to ensure the health, safety and well-being of children, families and animals
- Checking the animal enclosure is included in the daily grounds checklist
- A roster is in place to ensure that the animals daily needs are met.
- Educators will ensure that there is fresh drinking water and that food is provided daily.
- Any animal or pet kept at the service will be regularly cleaned, vaccinated, and checked for fleas and wormed.
- Educators will ensure that children are constantly supervised when handling animals
- Educators will ensure that effective hygiene measures are in place when touching animals
- Educators will be made aware of any children who may be frightened or allergic to any animals
- Caring for animals will be implemented in the curriculum and discussed with the children

Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement

- Parent/guardians must alert the director or other staff members if their child has an allergy or phobia towards the animals.
- When in the care of parents/guardians, children must not touch the animals or enter the animal enclosure
- Parents/guardians will be invited to care for the animals over the holiday breaks.

Children Involvement

- Management and staff will role-model and discuss with the children relevant safety guidelines and practices when handling animals
- Management and staff will role-model and encourage the children to show respect towards the animals
- Educators will support children in the caring of the animals

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	January 2020	NEXT REVIEW DATE	January 2022
MODIFICATIONS	Updated formatting.		