

Pet / Animal Policy

This policy is to ensure the safety of the children from illness or risk and to care appropriately for our pets or visiting animals.

It is our policy to ensure that any animal kept at Tir na nOg Preschool will be cared for according to their individual requirements and needs. Visiting animals will be kept under control.

Policy & Procedure:

Animals, birds and fish may carry infections, which can be transmitted to humans. Strick hygiene procedures are therefore required when handling and caring for these creatures to prevent illness.

The children are encouraged to talk with adults regarding the animals and their care needs. The children's hands are always washed after handling the animals.

Precautions:

- Appropriate risk assessment must be carried out and an account must be taken of any allergies that anyone coming into contact with the animals may have and appropriate precautions taken
- Parents are asked to inform us if their child has an allergy or phobia to any particular animals
- Staff should be aware that all species of reptiles may carry salmonella organism, particular care with hygiene must be taken when introducing these animals into the service.
- Children must wash their hands thoroughly with liquid soap in warm running water after coming in contact with any animals.
- Children will be supervised at all times when handling animals and will be taught correct handling and care of the animals.
- Staff must wash their hands after cleaning out the animals and dispose of all soiled matter in the outside bin.

Care of Animals:

- Correct guidelines and care of the animals must be follow
- Information regarding feeding, cleaning, and any other care information should be obtained from reliable sources.
- Suitable secure housing must be provided for the animals
- Arrangements will be made for care of the animals over the weekends and holiday periods.
- Any animals brought into the service by visitors are to be their responsibility. However, staff are still responsible for assessing any risks and taking any necessary precautions.