

ANIMAL AND PET POLICY

QUALITY AREA 2 & 3 | Hughesdale Kindergarten



PURPOSE

This policy provides a clear set of guidelines and procedures for Hughesdale Kindergarten to:

- Safely keep appropriate animals within the kindergarten
- Assess and mitigate potential health and safety hazards
- Set clear instructions regarding animals and pets on, and around Hughesdale Kindergarten property.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Hughesdale Kindergarten:

- Pets play an important part of children’s development.
- Having a relationship with a pet can help children develop a caring attitude and skills and nurturing, responsibility, empathy and communication
- Having a pet in early childhood environment enables children who are not otherwise exposed to animals to learn these skills
- The animals will become part of the daily educational program, leading to activities and learning about other animals;

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Hughesdale Kindergarten, including during offsite excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
	R indicates legislation requirement, and should not be deleted				
Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety	R	R	R	R	R



At all times reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard		R	R		R
Children are adequately supervised at all times.		R	R		R
Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.	R	R	R		R
Quality Area 3: Physical Environment					
Outdoor and indoor facilities and resources are suitable for their purpose.	R	R	R		
The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future.	R	R	R		R
Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.			R		R
National Regulations					
Premises, furniture and equipment are to be safe, clean and in good repair.	R	R	R		
Policies and procedures are required in relation to health and safety.	R	R			
Early Years Learning Framework					
Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.					



PROCEDURES

Centre Pets or Invited Animals.

- Before giving permission for the animal to come to kindergarten a risk minimisation plans for those children with asthma, or allergies will be consulted.
- No animal or pets are allowed on the kindergarten grounds without the prior consent of the Nominated Supervisor / Director. This includes tying up of dogs to the perimeter fence at drop off and pick up times. Dogs must not be tethered within the reach of children inside the perimeter fence.
- Parents or staff may request to bring in an animal e.g. a new kitten, rabbit, puppy etc. These visits require approval at the discretion of the class teacher
- Hand hygiene must be followed prior, and directly after handling a pet
- Children must be closely supervised when accessing any animal or pet
- Any animal or pet kept on the premises will be regularly fed and cleaned
- Any animal in a cage or tank will be regularly cleaned.
- Animals or pets will never be taken into the food preparation area.
- Children are not to play with animals while eating.
- Unwell animals or birds should be treated promptly by a vet or bird clinic.
- Avoid animal's risk to contaminate sandpits and play areas.
- Gloves to be worn and safely disposed of while handling animal faeces.
- Dispose of animal faeces when necessary. Place faeces in a plastic bag and put it out in the rubbish bin.
- Children should not assist in cleaning of birdcages, fish tanks or other animal cages or pens.
- Families may be asked to assist in the care of the pet during the weekend if necessary.
- Ensure animals are wormed and adequately vaccinated as appropriate / vet plan.



- It will be included in the educational program how to properly care for animals and how to treat them appropriately.

Keeping chickens

- In periods of high risk such as Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) the children will not be permitted to have access to the chickens, nor will the chickens be let out of their coop to protect both bird and child.
- Any child with allergies pertaining to chickens, chicken feathers or eggs will not have access to either the chickens or eggs.
- Chickens will be kept securely in cage and pen.
- Children will be able to see the chickens through a wire fence and have access with a staff member or parent under supervision.
- Chickens will be able to walk freely around the kindergarten grounds during some session times.
- The kindergartens hand washing procedure will be used by anyone who comes into contact with the eggs or chickens.
- Chicken food will be stored outside in the garden shed in a sealed rubbish bin labelled chicken food.
- The chicken pen will be cleaned to a set schedule
- Manure will be used for the vegetable garden and garden mixed with water. A clearly labelled bucket will hold the manure and must not be used for any other purpose
- Children will be assisted in removing eggs from the hen house by a staff member or parent helper wearing gloves.
- Eggs will be taken into the kitchen washed and refrigerated. The kindergarten will use the eggs to cook with the children. Parents are encouraged to participate in the whole experience, by taking the eggs home.
- A staff member or parent will care for the chickens during the term break and Christmas school holiday break.

EVALUATION



In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk ([Regulation 172 \(2\)](#)).

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Hughesdale Kindergarten on 25th June 2024

REVIEW DATE: 25th JUNE 2024

DUE FOR REVIEW: 25th JUNE 2027



