Childcare for children,
Childcare for you!

Animal policy 2026

At Smiley Happy People we feel that introduction to animals and pets in a safe way is important for children's **Knowledge and Understanding of the World** and for **Personal Social and Emotional Development**.

We do this by

· Having some animals on site, these are small insects and fish. there may also be wildlife in the gardens such as frogs, worms and slugs. Children are encouraged to leave the animals in their natural habitat and guided to wash their hands after handling any animal to avoid the risk of infection where possible. All animals that live on site and our outdoor areas are risk assessed for this.

· When at Forest School we may come across larger unexpected animal encounters, risk assessments are in place for this and safety procedures embedded prior to entry to the woodland using stop ribbons, emergency whistles and clarification of the boundaries.

· When on trips we may encounter unexpected animal encounters, this is managed by strict supervision, enhanced ratios and risk assessments prior to the trips taking place.

· We occasionally have animals in to visit us based on the time of year or seasonal events. All animals visiting will be risk assessed and children will be guided to wash their hands after handling them.

· We ask that families do not bring pets with them to the door. Children and staff may have allergies or phobias and we cannot risk assess for this as it is unplanned.

· Smiley Happy People must follow the Dangerous dogs Act 1991. This means 5 types of dogs must not enter the premises at any time under any circumstance. These include the XL Bully, Pitbull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasilerio type dogs.