

Risk Assessment: Farm Tours

This table has been created to highlight the health & safety issues associated with school groups participating in Farm Tours at Deen City Farm. The list is not definite & should be used as guidance alongside each schools own risk assessments and Health and Safety Policies. There will be a brief health and safety talk with each group on arrival at Deen City Farm.			
Risk	Description of Activity	Highlighted Risk	Risk Prevention/Control Measures
EDU01	Using the Classroom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slipping when the floor is wet 2. Burning on hot radiators 3. Electrocution from electric sockets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiators are protected by furniture when young children use the area. • Safety plugs are in sockets when a socket is not in use. • Spillages are mopped up or highlighted through yellow signs.
EDU02	Walking around the Farm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tripping over uneven ground or muddy, slippery floor 2. Tripping over/touching hosepipes and other Farm equipment. 3. Danger from moving vehicles along the driveway and within the Farm grounds. 4. Ensure exposure to animal faeces is minimal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight the danger of vehicles and other farm equipment during the safety talk in the classroom. • Make children aware of the expected behaviour and its importance for safety reasons within the Farm environment. • Ask children not to touch any farm equipment and explain the dangers. • Walk slowly around the grounds in small groups. • Keep the groups close together. • Point out obstacles as they are approached. • Notify farm staff of upcoming Farm Tours and ensure equipment and tools are stored safely. • Check yard area prior to commencing tour for excessive amounts of animal faeces.
EDU03	Feeding/Stroking animals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting hurt by the animals. 2. Getting bitten by the animals. 3. Being frightened by the animals. 4. Allergy to Nuts (in some feeds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate correct way to feed and approach animals. • Feed and stroke the animals in small groups of no more than 4 children at a time. • Ask children not to poke their fingers through the bars of cages and highlight the similarities between the look of food and children's fingers. • Ensure children are sitting down to stroke small animals. • Choose animals that are used to being petted by children. • Demonstrate the correct way to stroke each animal and emphasise the importance of being gentle. • Allow children who are unsure to have space and watch activities from a distance. • Inform party at beginning that the animal food may contain traces of nuts and we should be made aware of anyone who suffers with an allergy.
EDU04	Entering & Leaving animal cages.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trapping fingers in the doors of the cages. 2. Tripping over steps into animal areas. 3. Scraping or scratching themselves on fences and cages. 4. Catching germs from the animals and contracting virus' or ingesting bacteria (avian flu, E-Coli, etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take children into the cages in small groups of up to 4 children at a time. • Emphasise the importance of the children keeping their fingers away from the doors of cages. • Farm staff will stay vigilant and watch for fingers near door hinges. • Regularly remind the children not to climb or lean on the fences and animal cages. • Farm staff will ensure the upkeep of the fences to minimise the number of sharp edges. • As much animal faeces will be cleared from the pen/cage as possible before children enter. Shoes to be brushed down after children leave the cages. Hands should be washed after removing footwear.
EDU05	Eating snacks or lunch.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catching germs from the animals. 2. Contaminating food after touching the animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that animals do carry germs and highlight the importance of the children not putting their fingers in their mouths or around their faces during a farm visit. • Ensure children do not hug or kiss the animals. • Ask adults to help remind children not to put their fingers in their mouths. • At the end of the tour ensure children wash their hands with antibacterial hand wash. • Ensure that food is eaten only in the designated eating areas within the Farm.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANIMAL FUR AND HAY CAN BRING ON ASTHMA ATTACKS AND SKIN REACTIONS. PLEASE LET FARM STAFF KNOW IF CHILDREN ARE ALLERGIC OR ARE PRONE TO REACTIONS. PLEASE ENSURE THE APPROPRIATE MEDICATION IS BROUGHT WITH YOU. THESE CHILDREN MAY NEED TO REFRAIN FROM TOUCHING THE ANIMALS AND ENTERING CAGES.

We hope that your visit to Deen City Farm is enjoyable and safe.