

ADVICE TO TEACHERS – AVOIDING ILL HEALTH AT OPEN FARMS (AS PER HSE INFORMATION SHEET).

The following sensible steps will help make your visit even more safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Before your visit:-

- ❖ Complete a risk assessment which will help you decide the appropriate level of adult supervision for the group. Staffing ratios for visits are difficult to prescribe as a range of factors including the age, ability and characteristics of the group, the mode of travel, the nature of the activities planned, and the experience of teachers and other adults in off-site supervision. In addition to the teacher in charge, there should be enough supervisors to cope with an emergency. Further advice may be obtained from your local authority or Department for Children, Schools and Families (www.lotc.org.uk).
- ❖ Discuss with the supervisors, who may be parents or staff of the school, crèche etc, their role during the visit. They must understand the need to make sure that children wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly after contact with animals and follow the other rules suggested below.
- ❖ Discuss with pupils the rules for the visit, stressing that they must not eat or chew outside the areas in which you permit them to do so.
- ❖ Make sure that pupils wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy outdoor shoes (not sandals) or Wellington boots if possible.
- ❖ Check that any cuts, grazes etc on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.

During and after your visit make sure that the children:-

- ❖ Do not kiss the animals
- ❖ Always wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating, after any contact with animals and again before leaving the farm, observing the hand washing advice on the reverse of this document.
- ❖ Eat only food that they have brought with them, or food for human consumption they have bought on the farm, in designated areas, and never eat food which has fallen to the ground, or taste animal foods.
- ❖ Do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons etc in mouths.
- ❖ Clean or change their footwear before leaving, remembering to wash their hands after any contact with animal faeces on their footwear.

Check that the children stay in their allocated groups during the visit, and that they:-

- ❖ Do not use or pick up tools (eg spades and forks) unless permitted to do so by farm staff.
- ❖ Do not climb on walls or animal pens etc.
- ❖ Listen carefully and follow the instructions and information given by the farm staff.
- ❖ Approach and handle animals quietly and gently.
- ❖ Do not chase, frighten or torment the animals.

Remember:

The children are your responsibility during the visit.

You should supervise them during the visit especially during hand washing to make sure that each child washes and dries their hands thoroughly. Farm staff may be able to help with this supervision.

Allow plenty of time before eating or leaving so that the children do not have to rush.