

CLASSROOM/CENTER ANIMAL POLICY

1302.47 Safety practices.

(b) A program must develop and implement a system of management, including ongoing training, oversight, correction and continuous improvement in accordance with §1302.102, that includes policies and practices to ensure all facilities, equipment and materials, background checks, safety training, safety and hygiene practices and administrative safety procedures are adequate to ensure child safety. This system must ensure:

(1) *Facilities*. All facilities where children are served, including areas for learning, playing, sleeping, toileting, and eating are, at a minimum:

(i) Meet licensing requirements in accordance with §§1302.21(d)(1) and 1302.23(d);

(ii) Clean and free from pests;

(iii) Free from pollutants, hazards and toxins that are accessible to children and could endanger children's safety;

(iv) Designed to prevent child injury and free from hazards, including choking, strangulation, electrical, and drowning hazards, hazards posed by appliances and all other safety hazards;

(v) Well lit, including emergency lighting;

(vi) Equipped with safety supplies that are readily accessible to staff, including, at a minimum, fully-equipped and up-to-date first aid kits and appropriate fire safety supplies;

(vii) Free from firearms or other weapons that are accessible to children;

(viii) Designed to separate toileting and diapering areas from areas for preparing food, cooking, eating, or children's activities; and,

(ix) Kept safe through an ongoing system of preventative maintenance.

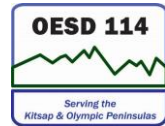
Policy

Early Learning staff will ensure that only "allowable" animals will be brought into the classroom and appropriate safety and sanitation procedures will be followed at all times. OESD 114 Early Learning classrooms/centers located in the community and School Districts will follow Early Learning procedures and community building/School District policies and procedures. Animals are not allowed in any classroom where a child or staff person has a health condition and exposure to the animal would put that child or staff person at risk.

Procedure

The following animals are not allowed:

- All domestic animals
- Aggressive or unpredictable domestic animals
- Amphibians
- Animals, spiders and/or insects that are venomous or poisonous



- Birds
- Cats/Kittens
- Chickens, chicks, or eggs
- Crustaceans (i.e. hermit crabs)
- Dogs
- Ducks, ducklings, or eggs
- Ferrets
- Puppies
- Rabbits
- Rodents
- Reptiles
- Wild or untrained animals

Some examples of animals that are allowed:

- Ant farm
- Caterpillars/Butterflies
- Fish

1. There must be a documented animal care plan that is approved by your supervisor. This plan must be developed and approved prior to the animal entering the classroom.
2. Parents must be notified prior to housing allowed animals. This consent must be unanimous.
3. Animal containers/cages must be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis and more often if needed.
4. Children 3-5 years of age may pet or hold an “allowed” animal under the direct supervision of a staff person. No direct contact is allowed for children under age three.
5. Children must wash their hands after handling animals.
6. The age and developmental level of the children must be considered when selecting an animal to be housed.

Animals are not allowed to be housed:

- In any area used by infants and toddlers.
- Where any child eats or sleeps, active play areas, entrances, or hallways.
- In food preparation areas.
- In children’s restrooms.
- In or near children’s hand washing sinks.

Service Animals:

OESD 114 Early Learning classrooms/centers located in the community and School Districts will follow community building and School District service animal policies and procedures.