

# Animal Policy

Regulations		
EHS/HS: 1302.47	ECEAP: ENV-26	WAC: 110-300-0225

## Purpose

The risk of injury, infection, and aggravation of allergy from contact between children and animals is significant therefore; staff must plan carefully when they have an animal in the program.

## Guidance

Early Learning staff will ensure that only "allowable" animals will be brought into the classroom and appropriate safety and sanitation procedures will be always followed. OESD 114 Early Learning Programs 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/puppies
- Ducks, ducklings, or eggs
- Ferrets
- Rabbits
- Rodents
- Reptiles
- Wild or untrained animals

### 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 programs located in the community and School Districts will follow community building and School District service animal policies and procedures.

**Resource:** Caring for Our Children-4<sup>th</sup> Edition