

Health and Safety Guidelines for Schools

We want you to have a fabulous day out at Adventure Valley and to help you to do this we ask that you follow our Health & Safety Guidelines.

It is recommended that at least one teacher or group leader visit the site prior to your trip in order to carry out your own Risk Assessment.

To enable you to do this, we offer a visit for up to two teachers/group leaders, FREE of charge prior to your trip (for schools or groups of 20 or more paying people. Please note that this visit must be prearranged and is for two adults for a maximum of two hours only on weekdays; this is a professional visit.

At Adventure Valley, leading animal welfare and best practice is followed. However, wherever there are animals and adventure play, this is always a small health risk to humans.

We make sure our animals are looked after and the animal accommodation is cleaned but, as animals and waste do carry germs, these can pose a health risk. However, the risk of catching most germs on farms is eliminated by good hygiene.

It is very important that our guidelines are followed to ensure your day out is a happy and healthy one.

- Hands must be cleansed after touching animals or their pens. There are hand washing facilities and hand sanitisers around the farm.
- Please take note of all signs posted around the site, especially those regarding the feeding habits of the animals.
- Children must be carefully supervised at all times whilst with the animals.
- Animals should be approached quietly and carefully and treated with respect. They should only be handled when a member of staff gives permission or signs permit visitors to do so.
- When feeding animals, children should hold their hands out flat and should not put their fingers into the mouths of animals.
- Do not kiss the animals
- Do not eat any of the animal food.
- Do not enter any animal pens or climb onto walls.
- Do not open any gates of the animal enclosures
- Please note that some of our animals, however friendly, may bite. Extra care and attention must be taken when approaching or feeding the animals.
- Please wash any scratches or bites with soap and water and hand sanitiser. In the event of any accident or injury, First Aid will be available on site. Please inform a member of staff immediately.
- Do not eat food that has fallen on the ground or eat and drink whilst touching the animals.
- Food should be eaten at designated areas only and not in animal areas.
- Please put rubbish in the bins provided
- Thoroughly wash any children's dummies or toys before giving them back to the child if they have fallen or come in to contact with the animals.
- Children must be supervised around the pond areas and all other areas of Adventure Valley at all times.
- Suitable clothing and footwear should be worn.
- Please be aware that on wet days, some areas may be slippery. Extra care must be taken.
- Please also be aware the some facilities (such as Tractor & Trailer Rides, Jumping Pillows, Runaway Races) may be restricted due to weather conditions.
- It is against the law to smoke on the premises and anyone found doing so will be asked to leave.

PREGNANT WOMEN:

If you are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant you should keep away from any pregnant ewes and new born lambs. This is to avoid the transfer of micro-organisms that can cause illness. There will be signs around the site to advise this.

MINIMUM ADULT TO CHILD RATIO:

All children must be supervised at all times (we cannot be held responsible for any loss or accident that may occur).

Based on HSE Guidelines, it is recommended that the ratio of children to supervisors, teachers, assistants and parents should be:

1:1 Children under 1 year old

1:2 Children between 1 and 2 years old

1:3 Children between 2 and 3 years old

1:4 Children between 3 and 5 years old

1:8 Children between 5 and 8 years old

If supervision levels are less than this, there should be no direct contact with animals.

RISK & LIABILITY:

- You are welcome to use the adventure playground, jumping pillows, slides, go karts and all other facilities at Adventure Valley at your own risk.
- We cannot accept any liability for any loss, damage or injury to persons or property, however caused.
- Children are your responsibility for the duration of the visit.

More guidelines for teachers can be found here:

<http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/preventing-or-controlling-ill-health-from-animal-contact-at-visitor-attractions-industry-code-of-practice>



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