



# Lesson plan

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## Down on the farm

**COUNTRY:** England

**CURRICULUM SUBJECT**

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Understanding the world

**KEY STAGE:** EYFS

**AREA OF FOCUS**

Farm animals

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This is a 'small world' lesson that encourages early years pupils to consider the nature and basic needs of farm animals. It is linked to Early Learning Goals. The lesson could be followed by **Farmer Duck's day off**.

## Starter activity

**Talking about farm animals**

- Build a small world farm in preparation for this activity, using the equipment listed in the *What you need* section.
- This activity could be used in a situation where pupils have been talking about farm animals in their day-to-day conversation.

**Learning styles:** visual, auditory, kinaesthetic.

## Main activity

**Down on the farm**

- As the children explore the small world farm, relate the needs of the animals to the children's own basic needs.
- Encourage them to think about:
  1. What each animal will eat and drink. Farm animals need access to fresh water and to be given the appropriate food.
  2. The best place for them to live, e.g. trees for shelter, barn, field etc.
  3. The size and the space the animals would need. Farm animals like to live in groups and need adequate space to move around.
  4. Is their food already there? Who has the responsibility to provide it?
  5. Not putting too many animals in the transporter. Let the driver stop to give them fresh air, rest and water.
  6. What the farmer needs to do for his/her animals to ensure they are healthy and happy.

**Learning styles:** visual, auditory, kinaesthetic.

## Plenary activity

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Early years practitioners are encouraged to talk about learning with pupils throughout the activity rather than leaving it to a formal plenary.

## Assessment

By observation of and by listening to children's talk.

## Differentiation

For more able pupils use pets and/or wild animals as well as farm animals. Encourage them to sort into sets before exploring the animals' needs.

## Curriculum objectives

The pupils will be able to:

- find out about the needs of living things
- show care and concern for living things.

## Animal welfare objectives

Pupils should learn:

- that farm animals have basic needs
- to understand that the farmer has a responsibility to meet the needs of farm animals so that the animals remain healthy and happy.

## Learning outcomes

The pupils will begin to:

- show care and concern for others, for living things and the environment
- show an interest in the world in which they live.

## Display

Collect some real objects related to farm animals and make a display or use in role play/outdoor area for farmyard, e.g. buckets, sawdust, bag of hay, bag of straw, corn/pellets.

## Did you know?

- The RSPCA has developed detailed welfare standards for nine of the major farmed species, which are designed to ensure that higher standards of animal welfare are met throughout the animals' lives.
- These standards are broadly based on the five welfare needs. They are:
  1. A suitable place to live- Animals should have the right type of home, including shelter, enough space, and somewhere comfortable to rest and hide.
  2. A healthy diet - Animals should have access to fresh, clean water all the time and should be given the right type and amount of food to keep them fit and healthy.
  3. The ability to behave normally - Animals should have enough space and the right kind of facilities to allow them to behave normally.
  4. The company he or she needs – Animals should be given appropriate company. Some animals should have company and some should be kept on their own.

5. To stay healthy – Animals should be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease and should be treated by a vet if they are sick or injured.
- The welfare standards are implemented on farms by the RSPCA's farm animal welfare and food labelling scheme, RSPCA Assured.
  - Farms, hauliers and abattoirs that are members of the RSPCA Assured scheme are inspected to ensure they are implementing the welfare standards set by the RSPCA.

## Useful websites

[RSPCA - All about animals - Farm animals](#)

[RSPCA Assured](#)

[Compassion in World Farming - Education](#)

[FACE - Farming and Countryside Education](#)

[Think Food and Farming](#)

[Video - What do farm animals need?](#)

## Cow





## Ducks





## Hen





# Pigs



# Sheep

