

Home Farm Helpers

Duration: 1½ hours approx. - max group size 30
National Curriculum - **Key Stage EY / 1 / 2**
Available: April - September



The Visit Aims

- To offer first hand experience of a variety of farm animals and to identify simple differences in livestock and their surroundings.
- To provide some understanding of the processes of life by encouraging an appreciation of the daily needs of farm animals through 'hands-on' group activities and relating these needs with those of ourselves as human beings.
- To look at farms as a source of produce – food, wool etc.
- To look at the way farm animals are kept. Their needs, care and feeding requirements.
- To gain an understanding of the working life of a farmer or farm worker.
- To encourage careful observations and through discussion, increase communication skills.

The Visit

A member of the Croxteth staff – '*the farmer*' – will meet the group at the entrance to the farm. A short discussion explains the purpose of the visit and introduces the children - *Home Farm Helpers* – to the farmer. The 'helpers' then accompany the farmer on his rounds and help with the work of looking after the animals.

The 'work' activities are designed to fully involve all the children in a '*hands-on*' experience and may include:

Feeding – silage ('pickled' hay) to sheep and cattle.

Watering – 'topping up' water bowls in outdoor pens.

Providing shelter and warmth – inspect housing quarters.

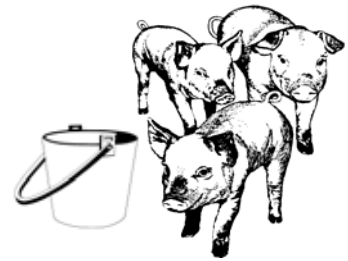
Bedding – 'topping up' with straw for some animals.

The dependence of farm animals (similar to domestic pets) on the 'farmer' and the 'helpers' is emphasised with regular attention being needed together with a caring and quiet approach.

A short discussion with the children summarises the visit.

It is important that the children should wash their hands at the end of the visit. Washing facilities and anti-bacterial gel are available for this on the farm.

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Background Information

Croxteth Hall & Country Park was the former residence of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and surrounding estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The Country Park now consists of 215 hectares (530 acres) of pasture, gardens and parkland. Since early Victorian times, Home Farm at Croxteth was managed as a 'model' livestock farm which provided the Sefton household with a regular supply of meat, eggs and dairy produce. Home Farm today, set within a complex of Victorian and 'new' buildings, is run as a working/visitor farm.

Rare Breeds: Home Farm is recognised as an approved 'Farm Park' by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), a charitable body concerned with the conservation of 'old' and endangered breeds of farm animals. Home Farm has a range of pedigree rare breeds (horses, cattle, sheep and pigs) many of which could have been seen on the farm in Victorian/Edwardian times.

Visit Resources

- All resources needed for the visit – hay, straw, silage etc.
- Hand washing facilities and anti-bacterial gel.

Visit Notes

Supervision - For every visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your group to comply with your LEA outdoor guidelines.

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Most visits last for approx 1.5 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit for times and starting points. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your visit to allow for parking, payment, toilet trips, etc

Toilets - are in the courtyard by the Café.

Parking - The main entrance and coach park is off Muirhead Avenue East. The coach park is about 300m from the Hall. You may be advised to park near the Hall only with prior arrangement.

Charge - £3.80 per child, (minimum charge £95.00 per group)

Payment - Please make payment on the day of the visit at the gift shop at the front of the Hall. Please make payment to **Croxteth Hall & Country Park**.

Clothing - Please ensure students wear outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and time of year.

Further Information about this and other visits are detailed on our 'Learning Opportunities' website www.croxteth.co.uk/education

Customer Feedback Forms - please fill in and return our feedback survey sheets- we welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit.

Liverpool City Council Parks & Greenspaces

**Ranger Interpretation Service, Croxteth Hall & Country Park, Croxteth Hall Lane,
Liverpool L12 OHB**

Tel 0151 233 6910 (Gen Office), 0151 233 6912/6915 (RIS Team) fax 0151 233 6906