

Thanks for considering a trip to the farm. Here's what we offer and some of the options, but please call and talk to our dedicated office staff who will help work out the best arrangements for your group (0121 329 3240). Peak season and Christmas usually book up fully, so contact us early!



## An introduction

The Children's Farm at Ash End House Farm is a family-owned business that has been operating as an "open farm" for nearly 40 years. It offers a wonderful, hands-on visit to children of every age, with lots of undercover activities to suit all seasons.

Our long history of offering visits to families and groups of children from all over the Midlands means that we can provide the best facilities, range of animals and educational activities while still retaining a personal and friendly touch. Every year we add new attractions to ensure your trip is a fresh experience.

At the centre of every visit are the animals and, of course, your children.



Our well-trained, friendly guides ensure all visitors learn about the farm animals in a fun way appropriate to their age and knowledge.

## Location

We are on a quiet country lane near Middleton, easily accessible by coach due to the proximity of the A4091.

*Ash End House Children's Farm*

*Middleton Lane*

*Middleton*

*Nr. Tamworth*

*Staffs, B78 2BL*



## Pre-visit

Several teachers/leaders are welcome to visit the farm before your trip, free of charge. Bring your school/group letterhead or our confirmation letter with you as identification – no need to book.

We have a Risk Assessment you can take away or ask us to email it to you.

*We are CEVAS - Farming and Educational Visits Accredited*

*We support the DFES Learning outside the Classroom Manifesto*

# The Tour

- Your visit is led by a Tour Guide and lasts approximately 90 minutes. Large groups are split between several tour guides who will work with 30-40 children each.
- We offer enjoyable and educational interaction with a variety of animals - chicks, rabbits, goats, etc.
- Tours can be focused on themes such as Animals and Their Young, Nursery Rhymes, Animal Detectives, Traditional Tales, Food and Farming. These tours are designed to reflect the interests and curriculum of different ages. See **Themes** below.
- Depending on the time of your tour, other attractions can be added to your visit, e.g., Birds of Prey Centre - discuss this with our office when you book to see what is possible in the time frame of your visit. Note: these are all chargeable extras. Alternatively, if there is time after your tour and lunch, you can revisit the animals "free range", supervising your own children. Unfortunately, you can't enter the animal area unsupervised before your tour.

# Facilities

- Linked animal barns and good paths make it easy to stay dry
- A picnic barn, heated in winter, is allocated to each group
- Farm Education Building and outdoor play areas
- Good toilet and hand-wash facilities
- Farm Shop with pocket-money priced souvenirs (or we can make-up a fixed price bag)

# Themes

*Most suitable for toddler groups:*

- **Nursery Rhymes Tour** - acting and singing during the tour

*For Early Years including reception classes (also Rainbows and Beavers):*

- **Nursery Rhymes Tour** - acting and singing during the tour with interaction with Nursery Rhymes
- **Animals and their Young** - looking for similarities and differences
- **Farm Tales** - focus on animals in stories - Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Hen etc.

*For KS1 and KS2:*

- **Farm Tales** - focus on animals in stories – Chicken Licken, Owl babies, Charlotte's web (literacy focus)
- **Animal Detectives** - similarities and differences, adaptation for purpose and lifecycle (science focus)
- **Food and Farming** - care for animals; food, clothes from animals (citizenship focus)

# Group Pricing

**Peak season** is *March through August*. Group prices are **£10.95 per child**, with a minimum booking of **£250**. **One free adult is offered per 5 paying children** (to include any teachers, SEN carers, parents). Any **additional adults** are **£9.95 per person**. You are charged for those you bring on the day (minimum £250 applies), but please advise us if your numbers change significantly.

**Christmas period:** usually the last week of November and all of December, see section below for pricing and other details. **Off peak:** we offer reduced prices or free additional activities – please phone to check.

**Extra Activities:** Depending on the time of your tour, other **chargeable** attractions can be added to your visit for a small extra cost. These **must** be pre-booked. Please discuss this with the member of staff that takes your booking as some of these options are only available for certain ages and specific time slots. For guidance ...

## FOR SCHOOLS

**BIG PLAY:** **£3.00 per child** The Big Play Barn has a large area of walkways, clambering challenges and slides for all ages. The huge bouncing pillow and inflatable assault course add to the fun!

**ALLOTMENT ACTIVITY:** **£2.00 per child** Growing season only. Learn about growing different fruit and veg. Look at different varieties and pick herbs. May, June and July.

**BIRDS OF PREY CHAT:** **£2.00 per child** Meet our knowledgeable Bird Man and his beautiful birds.

**CREepy CRITTER BARN:** **£2.00 per child** Get up close to our minibeasts and reptiles.

**TRACTOR AND TRAILER RIDE:** **£2.50 per child** Tour the lower field and paddocks on our bumpy tractor ride.

## FOR NURSERY or PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS where parents attend trip with children

**TRACTOR AND TRAILER RIDE:** Tour the lower field and paddocks on our bumpy tractor ride. **£2.50 per child**

**BIG PLAY BARN:** Our huge indoor and outdoor play facility **£3.00 per child**

**NOTE: ALL Bookings must be secured with a deposit. ALL coach parties/groups must pre-book.**

# Christmas Period

From the last week of November, through December, we offer a popular Nativity and Father Christmas Visit. We charge our normal group entrance fee but there is a small additional charge for the gift from Santa (£4.00). **The minimum booking and deposit at Christmas is £300, not including any optional extras (such as Play Barn add-on).**

As part of your tour, you enter our 18th century farm stables, which is staged as a Nativity Scene (with a real donkey). Children from the group participate in the Nativity Story (the first Christmas) and all are encouraged to sing songs. The children then go through to meet Father Christmas. There's more singing and each child receives their gift. While on the farm, you meet and sing to Rudolph. Please note, however, that the animal part of the tour is shorter to leave time for the Nativity Scene and Santa.