

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Transport Assistance is a targeted service organised by the Department for Education (DfE) to support children and students with disabilities to attend specialised preschools and schools. For children under the age of 6, transport assistance takes the form of Car allowance — a payment paid to families and carers each term to assist them with the costs of transporting their child.

Currently funding for transport is funded through the N.D.I.S. Families wishing to apply for transport support must provide to The Briars, a copy of their current N.D.I.A. plan showing DfE In-kind transport is included.

At the end of each term The Briars will complete a claim form, including days attended, which will be required to be signed. This is processed by DfE and payment is made directly into the family's bank account.

2020 TERM DATES

TERM	1	28 Jan	-	9 Apr
TERM	2	27 Apr	-	3 Jul
TERM	3	20 Jul	-	25 Sep
TERM	4	12 Oct	-	11 Dec



CONTACT DETAILS

Address: 5 Briar Road, Felixstow SA 5070
Phone: 8365 9808
Email: the.briars299@schools.sa.edu.au



.....a vibrant, safe and nurturing learning community
for children with disabilities

Director: Gordon Combes

THE BRIARS TIMES & FEES

The centre operates Monday to Friday.

Preschool & Early Entry times are **9.00 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Preschool & Early Entry children attend for a **full day.**

Preschool — Children may attend the equivalent of 15 hours per week over the preschool year. (This is a Federal/ State Government Agreement to provide additional pre-school hours for 4 year old children.)

Early Entry — Children may attend one full day per week for one term prior to their Preschool year.

Early Entry (1 day per week, Term 4 only) - \$100

Preschool year (15 hours per week) - \$250 per term

(Accounts will be sent out in Terms 1 and 3.)

There may be some small additional costs for excursions.



TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

The Briars together with Department for Education (DfE) Support Services, supports families with their child's transition to school and this is discussed at NEP meetings. St enrolment you will be asked to sign a referral to DfE Support Services. This will commence the process for each child to be assessed for their best schooling options.

An Educational Psychologist is allocated for each child dependent on where they live. During Terms 2 and 3 the Educational Psychologists will visit The Briars to observe the child and if possible, undertake some developmental tests and gather information. We will let you know when the Ed Psych will be visiting, however you do not need to attend this appointment. They will liaise with each child's teacher, ask for adaptive functioning assessments and may contact families for further information. From this information they will write a report and make a recommendation for school placement. After this, they will meet with families to provide and discuss the report and possible school options. If a special option is recommended it may be a special school or a special unit or class within a regular primary school. Some children may also attend a mainstream junior primary class with support.

In Term 3, a DfE Special Options panel meets to consider student placement. Families are notified with a Letter of Offer. If the offer is accepted the school and The Briars will liaise to organise a Transition Meeting for Term 4. This meeting is for the family to attend and will be at either The Briars or the new school. Handover of information and discussion around transition visits will take place. A transition visit is where Briars staff supports the child at a visit to the new school and to share information directly with the new teacher.

If families are considering a private school and have confirmation of placement, the above process does not need to be undertaken.

YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

If, at any stage, you would like to discuss your child's progress at preschool please do not hesitate to discuss this with staff and, if necessary, make an appointment so that staff can ensure sufficient time is available to meet.

All children at The Briars will have a Negotiated Education Plan (NEP). This is developed at an initial enrolment meeting held with the parents/guardian, staff and other agencies which may be invited by the family. It provides an opportunity to meet, consider the program for your child and to negotiate and document relevant educational plans for their future. It is an excellent way to find out how your child is developing in the preschool environment and to discuss your priorities. These plans are reviewed with you regularly.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Briars team of specialised teaching and support staff work collaboratively with other agencies to meet children's developmental and learning needs. We encourage these services who are involved with your child to work with us to support your child's learning at preschool.

PARENT / FAMILY PARTICIPATION

Families are encouraged to be involved in a range of activities which will benefit ALL the children at the preschool.

These activities include involvement at informal morning and afternoon teas which provide families with an opportunity to meet staff and other parents and see their children participating in the program. The **Governing Council** is a formalized group of interested parents and staff who meet to discuss and make decisions about The Briars operations, events, fundraising, facilities and community involvement. Meeting times are currently held twice per term on a kindy day.



VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

The Briars Preschool values:

- high quality preschool education
- a safe, responsive learning environment
- the right of all children to an education that ensures they achieve their full potential
- a staff team that nurtures and respects the special skills, talents and individual needs of each child
- a dynamic curriculum that is adapted and modified to suit individual needs
- children's independence and fosters self help skills
- a partnership with parents, families and support staff
- a staff team who have a commitment to continuous improvement in all areas of curriculum provision and reporting
- open and honest evaluation and reporting to families on their child's achievements and attainment of goals

The curriculum provided is based on the Early Years Learning Framework. Individual Learning Plans are developed taking into consideration the needs of each child.

It is developed by:

- utilising a strong, experienced and responsible staff team that work flexibly with a commitment to the children and families that they serve, and to their own personal professional growth
- working in partnership with children's families
- establishing a collaborative approach when working with inter/intra agencies to ensure a balanced yet dynamic curriculum focused on a play based learning setting, ensuring a multi disciplinary team response
- ensuring smooth transitional pathways which are negotiated when children enter and exit with support requirements discussed and agreed upon

We observe, record and evaluate our program to assess its effectiveness.

We believe that the effectiveness of our curriculum is indicated when:

The children

- are engaged in a wide range of learning opportunities
- are happy, inquisitive and show motivation to be involved
- are interacting with educators and peers in positive ways
- are gaining independence and new skills

The environment is

- engineered for communication
- child centred
- play orientated
- organised to allow access to a range of resources
- challenging but as free from danger and hazards as possible
- open and welcoming
- organised so that all children have opportunities to participate.

The families

- are informed
- are supported
- are actively involved
- feel comfortable when asking questions



HEALTH SUPPORT

In addition to a range of developmentally appropriate preschool activities, staff implement structured programs to assist children's independence with toileting/self care and eating/drinking.

Children with complex health care needs are assisted by a Health Support Officer employed by Women's & Children's Health Network (WCHN). Health Support Officers undertake a variety of tasks including gastrostomy feeding and other complex health care needs. These children have a Health Care Plan that is put in place by WCHN to ensure full access and participation for all children at the Centre. Other health care needs are managed by the DfE staff with a Health Support Plan. Medical forms will be handed to you upon enrolment to be completed by your doctor or pharmacist in order for educators to develop this plan if it is required by your child.

ILLNESS AT PRESCHOOL

Some children attending The Briars have very fragile health and will be put at **significant** risk if other children around them are unwell. If your child is unwell at preschool you, or an emergency contact, will be notified to collect them. If the child is unwell prior to coming to preschool, we ask that they be kept home — please notify The Briars. Please refer to the Health Support Policy for full details

MEDICATION

If a child requires medication whilst at preschool, specific forms will need to be completed by the family and the doctor. If this situation is likely to occur please discuss with staff. **Staff are unable to administer any medication or supplements without current and correct authorisation.**

NUTRITION POLICY

Although we would love all children to have a healthy diet, we know that some children have sensory issues and this may not always be possible.

We understand that they may have very strong food and drink preferences and staff will support this and any special dietary requirements.

For children with healthy appetites we strongly urge you to provide healthy foods and drinks in line with the DfE 'Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for South Australian Schools' incorporating the 'Eat Well SA Healthy Eating Guidelines (2004)'.

WE REQUEST THAT NO NUT OR WHOLE EGG PRODUCTS ARE BROUGHT INTO THE CENTRE DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGIES OF SOME CHILDREN

WHEN AND WHERE THE CHILDREN EAT

Children eat their snack and lunch together seated at the table.

Educators sit with the group to promote social participation and communication by modelling specific vocabulary, ensuring safe eating and to support children who require assistance at mealtimes.



WHAT YOUR CHILD REQUIRES FOR THE DAY

- A backpack — provided at enrolment.
- Briars Communication Book
- A named lunch box and drink bottle
- Fruit/savoury snack, and a healthy, nutritious lunch
Although we would love all children to have a healthy diet, we know that some children have sensory issues and this may not always be possible.

NO NUT OR WHOLE EGG PRODUCTS

- Wear practical clothing suitable for active play
- A set of spare clothes
- A hat
- All clothing & property to be clearly named
- Please supply an adequate number of disposable nappies for each day if your child requires them.

Sun Protection

During days of extreme heat (36 degrees and above) children are encouraged to play in the shade, wear hats and use sunscreen.

Please help us to promote this by applying sunscreen at home as part of your regular routine (we will reapply at Preschool) and ensure your child is wearing clothing to protect them from the sun (ie. tops that cover their shoulders, no singlets).

A full copy of The Briars Sun Protection Policy is available in the foyer.



WHAT SHALL I DO IF MY CHILD CRIES ON THE FIRST DAY?

Experience has shown that the most tearful children calm down shortly after their parents leave. Although it may be hard for you, the best thing is usually to leave quickly. You are welcome to observe your child through the viewing window in the staff room to gauge how your child is going. Your child's teacher will discuss with you ways to manage your child's separation. Please feel free to phone The Briars for a progress report throughout the day or if you have any concerns about your child.

COMMUNICATION

You are welcome to contact The Briars if you require information or have any concerns on 8365 9808 or by email (the.briars299@schools.sa.edu.au) We appreciate information to keep us up to date.

An educator will discuss your child's day with you, at time of collection, via a face to face discussion.

Newsletter: A Newsletter is published fortnightly.

CHILD ABSENCES

Please ring The Briars on 8365 9808 if your child will be absent for any reason.



LOST PROPERTY

It is very important to name all articles of clothing (including socks & shoes), bags, car seats, lunch boxes and drink bottles. Let us know promptly if your child has misplaced anything.

INDEPENDENCE

We encourage children to be independent in caring for their personal needs and belongings. For example, we encourage all children to carry their own bag (if possible), to unpack and to put their own belongings in a tray of their choice.

NEWSLETTER & INFORMATION

We publish a Newsletter regularly. They are full of information about what is happening at preschool, photos of the children, meeting information, important dates and curriculum details. Please ensure you read these and also check your child's communication book daily.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions are held occasionally and small groups or individuals may go on short walks in the community. Permission forms are required to be completed for all excursions. At other times we have entertainers who come into the preschool. There may be, at times, a small cost for some excursions.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Please inform staff at the front desk of any change of address and / or telephone numbers, including emergency contacts, as soon as possible.