



## The Briars Inclusive Playgroup

The Briars Preschool Inclusive Playgroup focuses on supporting the development and wellbeing of families. Parents and caregivers are provided with the opportunity to engage in play-based activities with their children alongside a Briars educator in a caring and supportive environment that facilitates the development of effective social interactions through play experiences.

The Briars Inclusive Playgroup is a regular and relaxed 2 hour meeting for small groups of children (birth to preschool) with their parents and caregivers. It currently runs on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

Children will be introduced to a variety of enriching indoor and outdoor play-based opportunities; stories, singing, dancing, sensory play, cooking and lots more.

Commerford and Robinson, (2016) in "Supported playgroups for parents and children" state that "Play is considered an essential part of human development and is recognised by the UN High Commission for Human Rights as a basic right of every child" (Brockman, Fox & Jago, 2011). The benefits of play for children have been widely documented, with play being associated with the development of language and literacy, sociability and mathematical ability (Hancock et al., 2002). The evidence for their benefits supports unicef United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 15 and 30.

Parents and caregivers have an opportunity to meet other families and make new contacts through shared experiences whilst having one on one play away from home and every day distractions. Playgroup is also a good opportunity to share ideas and experiences, learn from each other and to develop knowledge and connections about local services and the community.