



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

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) ...

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is the name given to devices, tools, systems and strategies used to support children with Complex Communication Needs (CCN). AAC encompasses all communication from simple gestures and vocalisations, to visual prompts and sophisticated eye-gaze devices. Most children at The Briars are emergent communicators and are developing their understanding of communication. Some children use a multi-modal approach and use the most efficient AAC given the situation.

All children at The Briars have CCN and educators use a wide variety of AAC to support their developing communication with the long-term goal of autonomous communication. Educators use and model a child's individual AAC that is prescribed by their Speech Pathologists as well as a range of additional AAC at The Briars. High level exposure to AAC provides children the opportunity to 'babble' as they explore AAC, learn the functions of communication and develop relationships with others. As a child develops their sense of agency they are able to request, question, agree, disagree, share opinions and develop relationships with others. When a child uses AAC it is always respected as their voice.

The use of AAC aligns with the Marte Meo technique being adopted by educators at The Briars this year. Have a look at the AAC display in our foyer to see the different AAC being used by the children this year. All of the educators are looking forward to supporting the communication for children at The Briars and in the wider community in 2021.

