

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT: THE BRIARS PRESCHOOL 2025

Preschool site number: 1417

Preschool Name: The Briars Preschool

Profile

The Briars Preschool is dedicated to the education of preschool children with disabilities and/or complex communication needs.

General Information

DfE Location and Postal Address: 5 Briar Road, Felixstow SA 5070

Partnership: Felixstow 2: Campbell

Geographical location: 6 km from GPO

Telephone number: 08 8365 9808

Preschool email: the.briars299@schools.sa.edu.au

Key Preschool Priorities

Preschool program

All children are entitled to access 15 hours of preschool education in the year prior to starting school (either calendar or mid-year depending on eligibility).

Our preschool program is **highly individualised**, with a strong focus on children's strengths, needs and interests. Communication is central to our work, supported through **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), Marte Meo and the Berry Street Education Model**.

The Briars also runs a **state-wide Advisory Service**, supporting colleagues across South Australia to strengthen provision for children with complex learning needs in local preschools. This includes workshops, advice and consultancy.

Aboriginal children and children in care may start preschool from 3 years of age and attend for 15 hours per week. They may either begin school at their eligible enrolment age or continue at preschool until 6 years of age.

Preschool Supported Program (PSP)

The PSP supports children's development of independence, routines and effective communication for early learners in the year before preschool. Children can attend one 3-hour session per week once they turn 3 years old (limited places available).

Statement of Purpose

The Briars **Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)** outlines our commitment to continuous improvement, with a site-wide goal of **improving children's ability to communicate with others**. This is achieved through a consistent approach to AAC, Marte Meo and the Berry Street Education Model.

Vision

The Briars Preschool provides an **inclusive learning environment** that supports the education of all children with disabilities and/or complex communication needs. Our curriculum is guided by the **Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (V2.0)**. The Briars is a vibrant, safe, and nurturing community where every child is supported to thrive.

We believe that:

- All children are learners and can be empowered to be actively involved in their world.
 - Children learn best when they are happy and confident in an environment that provides a strong sense of belonging.
 - Learning is most powerful when opportunities respect and celebrate each child's individuality.
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Curriculum

Our curriculum is informed by the **Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (V2.0)** and is intentionally designed to be meaningful, flexible and individualised. Every child has individual goals and a **One Plan**, developed in partnership with families. We view play as the ideal platform for young children's learning and encourage children to take the lead in their learning.

We value families as their child's first teachers, recognising the knowledge, insight, and advocacy they bring. Strong partnerships with families and allied health professionals foster belonging and strengthen children's outcomes.

Educators work within a **multi-disciplinary team approach**, alongside allied health professionals and external providers, ensuring children's health, mobility and complex needs are understood and supported.

All children participate in the **DfE Educational Pathways process** to determine the most appropriate school setting, with The Briars team supporting families throughout this transition.

Staffing

Staffing levels are dependent on enrolments.

- **Director:** 1.0 FTE
- **Early Years Teachers:** 6.03 FTE
- **Early Childhood Workers (ECWs):** 6.03 FTE
- **Administration:** 18.75 hours

We operate at a ratio of **1 Teacher and 1 ECW per 6 children**.

Performance Management

Performance management is ongoing, incorporating regular informal feedback, as well as individual performance planning and reviews.

Centre Facilities: Buildings and Grounds

The Briars Preschool is a **purpose-built centre**, designed to provide an inclusive preschool learning environment for children with complex needs.

Enrolment capacity: 42

Local Community and Parent Involvement

All families are invited to join the Preschool Governing Council and are encouraged to participate in their child's learning through the development of **One Plans**. Families and community members are regularly offered opportunities to be involved in the preschool program.

Continuity of Learning

Children transition from The Briars to school through the **DfE Educational Pathways process**, with individualised transition support provided.

Local Government

The Briars is located within the **City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council**.