

Kempsville Academy, Inc. t/a

Barefoot Kids

Christian Day School

Est. 1993



Footprints of Faith, Friendships & Fundamentals

1458 Kempsville Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7302
757-467-1234 / (Fax) 757-467-5285
www.BarefootKids.com
BarefootKids@me.com

Hours of Operation for Children *over* 24mos:

6:45 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

Hours of Operation for Children *under* 24mos:

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

INTRODUCTION

Kempsville Academy, Inc. t/a **Barefoot Kids**, established in 1993, is a nondenominational Christian Day School that is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services. Although many children attend **Barefoot Kids**, we believe in small classes with quality standards. **Barefoot Kids** is open to all children from infancy to 10 years old, regardless of race, nationality or creed, who may benefit from our type of program.

MISSION

Barefoot Kids exists to form a partnership with families, to provide an environment in which children will develop Christian character, self-esteem, and readiness for school and other life experiences through developmentally appropriate activities and biblical foundations to equip them to impact the world for Christ.

VISION

The vision of **Barefoot Kids** is to develop leaders who stand firm in biblical and academic foundations and are equipped to impact the world for Christ.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please visit www.BarefootKids.com for a copy of our school calendar, including school closings. In case of inclement weather, closings, or emergency procedures, please call Barefoot Kids or visit us at www.BarefootKids.com. In the event that Barefoot Kids cannot be reached, we will follow the Virginia Beach Public School System.



PHILOSOPHY

*Train a child in the way he should go;
and when he is old, he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

God has given parents and teachers the awesome responsibility of nurturing the children He has placed in our care. When parents must work, now more than ever, dedicated teachers must care for children in a Christian environment. Therefore, we exist to partner with parents to provide an environment where children can develop wholesome self-images. As children explore, question, listen, build, paint, play, and sing, they develop readiness for school and other life experiences. Furthermore, the quality of these early experiences will profoundly influence each child. We want each child to realize his/her full potential while developing Christian character and high self-esteem in a positive learning environment. We believe that by recognizing and supporting each child's individual talents and interests we can instill a lifelong love of learning. We believe that the Bible is the basis of wisdom, and we will endeavor to teach Biblical truths by example and through Bible stories and character studies without any specific doctrinal bias.



BAREFOOT KIDS
ESTABLISHED LINES OF AUTHORITY

Program Director

Jenifer Barefoot Hixenbaugh

Assistant Director

Eileen Ecalnea

Administrator

Kathleen S. Barefoot

Director of Staff & Supervision

Teachers

Aides

Licensing information can be obtained
at <https://www.childcare.virginia.gov/>.

GOALS

Our program goals are designed to enable children to develop spiritually, academically, physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and creatively.

We want children to:

**Grow in faith and develop a positive self-worth:* We want children to learn to love God and to know that God loves them. We believe that this is the best way to teach children to view themselves as successful, likable, competent individuals.

**Grow in independence:* To learn to make decisions, choices, to do things for themselves and to begin to view themselves as individuals.

**Develop self-control and self-discipline:* To become self-disciplined, self-guided, self-directed and to develop a sound basis for appropriate behavior. Manners such as “please” and “thank you”, “Yes Sir” and “No Sir”, and prayer before each meal will be stressed. Your child will be taught to share and to respect the rights of others.

**Gain control of and begin to understand their own bodies:* Including self-care skills, health practices, nutrition, hygiene, and fine and gross motor skill development.

**Understand and control the physical world:* By encouraging curiosity, thinking, understanding cause and effect, reasoning, problem-solving and gathering and using information.

**Develop both oral and written language and the use of symbols:* Children who have a wide variety of experiences with language and good adult language partners develop a richer vocabulary, more expressive language, and a greater skill in communication. Other forms of symbolic representation such as signs, pictures, written language and mathematical symbols will be taught.

*“Everyone I encounter at **Barefoot Kids** has a great attitude. They make Gabrielle have a positive fun day. I am truly blessed to have Gabrielle around such a great set of role models. Thank you for everything.”*

~ Parent of Gabrielle (Preschool)

ENROLLMENT POLICIES

Your child will be considered enrolled upon receipt of completed Registration Form, signed Parent Agreement Statements, and a non-refundable Registration Fee.



OPEN-DOOR POLICY & COMMUNICATION

Barefoot Kids has an open-door policy regarding the visitation of children from a custodial parent or guardian as required by the Code of Virginia 63.2-1813. Such right of admission shall apply only while the child is in attendance. If a custody or court order exists, a copy of the document must be placed in the child's file. The parent/guardian is responsible for providing current information regarding access to or legal guardianship of the child. We cannot deny access to a parent without legal documentation. Teachers and parents work together to resolve any difficulties and differences that arise. In rare situations, when a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the director will schedule and facilitate a meeting with all parties involved.

Barefoot Kids encourages parental involvement in school activities, including but not limited to, Harvest Day, Holiday Parties, Easter Festivities, Picnic on the Grounds, etc. Sign-up sheets will be made available prior to the festivities for opportunities to donate items and/or your time. (*Review Arrival & Departure Policy*)

"We have been impressed and satisfied with the school's program ever since we enrolled both our daughters nearly 4 years ago. It has been remarkable to see the growth in our children spiritually, academically, physically, and emotionally." ~ Parents of Mia (K) and Gabi (Pre-K)

TUITION

- Tuition is calculated as an annual fee divided into fifty-two weekly payments or twelve-monthly payments, based on your payment preference.
- Families paying monthly save one week's tuition annually. We do not give tuition refunds or credits for student absences, vacations, school closings or holidays.
- Tuition payments are placed in the tuition box located in the office or paid directly through the *MyBrightwheel app*. Staff members do not handle tuition payments.
- For families with multiple children enrolled, there will be a 10% discount off the oldest child.
- A 10% late fee will be assessed if payment has not been received by the close of school on the date due. After two late payments all discounts will be discontinued, and the student may not be allowed to return to school until full payment is received. Re-enrollment will be based upon availability.
- All returned checks will be assessed \$30.00. If the account remains delinquent, a finance charge of 10% will be assessed on the balance due and will be added on the first of each month until the balance is paid in full.
- After two late payments all discounts will be discontinued.
- There is a late fee of \$5.00 for every minute your child is in attendance after **Barefoot Kids** closes. If you are late more than three times, **Barefoot Kids** has the right to terminate care. Children under 24 months may be charged an additional \$5.00 per minute when in attendance during extended care. \$10.00 fee *may be charged* for any child at school over 10 hours in one day.

Your tuition schedule will be set up through *MyBrightwheel app* and must be paid before or on the date due. Additionally, credit card processing will include a 3% fee. ACH fee will be waived by **Barefoot Kids**.

Tuition Schedule and School Calendar can be located at www.barefootkids.com.



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Parents are responsible for their child's safety during arrival and departure. Please park your car and turn off the engine. On all occasions, children should be carried or held by the hand all the way to and from the automobile until you have secured them in the school or safely in their car seats. ~~We ask that children arrive at Barefoot Kids no later than 9:00 a.m.~~ **Children must arrive before 9:00 am. Anyone arriving after 9:00 am may be denied care for the day. This assists with providing consistent learning environments, keeping interruptions to a minimum. Late arrivals for doctor's appointments are understandable; let us know beforehand and bring a doctor's note/report to the office when you arrive. We also understand that extreme circumstances occur, so we ask that you communicate your needs with administration before arrival. A late fee of \$10 per day may be assessed if care is provided. Termination of care may result for excessive interruptions.**

Children must be signed in and out daily PRIOR to being dropped off with the teacher, using the proper entrances, and immediately upon picking your child up. According to the registration form, children will be released only to their parents and/or adults (18 years or older) who have been given authorization. An authorized person must present positive identification before receiving the child. All schedule changes or notifications of change in pick-up information are to be documented in our *MyBrightwheel app*. If a parent calls to inform the school of a person picking up who has not been previously documented, the administrator will then contact the parent using phone numbers listed on the registration form to confirm authorization. Prior to signing your child in and once a child is removed from the supervising staff member's care, it becomes the responsibility of the person picking up the child to supervise him or her.

Parents are welcome to go directly to the classrooms and/or playgrounds prior to 9:00am with their child, and at the time of departure, to pick up their child. Please limit this time, as teachers have many responsibilities, and they need to focus on the children in care.

If a parent chooses to visit their child during the day and NOT pick up the child, the following is required:

1. Sign in at the office using the Visitor's Log.
2. Your child will be brought to the office by a staff member, where the visitation will occur.
3. When you finish visiting, the child will be walked back to class with a staff member.
4. Sign out at the office in the Visitor's Log

This makes the transition easier on the child and the class as a whole, as they are often busy in activities. This policy is like that of VBCPS and is being implemented to ensure the consistency of learning and safety of all involved.

Please note that if you need to bring items for care throughout the day, bring them to the office, and a staff member will run them back to the room for you.

Barefoot Kids closes at 6:00 pm for children over 24 months and infants and toddlers must be picked up before 5:00 p.m. We ask parents to cooperate in picking up their children by the appropriate time. Parents picking up thereafter should pick up their children in the office. If a child is not picked up by the time **Barefoot Kids** closes (including inclement weather and natural disasters) and the staff has not heard from the parent, the emergency contacts will be called to pick up the child. If no one can be contacted within half an hour,

social services and/or the local authorities will be contacted, and they will inform the staff on how to handle the situation.

A child will only be released to a person authorized by the custodial parent. Children will not be released to siblings without written parental consent. The staff will question those persons with whom they are unfamiliar and check authorization and identification according to the child's record before releasing a child.

CURRICULUM

The foundation for our curriculum is the **WEE LEARN** Curriculum (**W**eekday **E**arly **E**ducation), which provides thematic-based units for infancy through Kindergarten. This Christian-based curriculum allows children to grow and develop as Jesus did – in “wisdom and stature” and in “favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Each unit provides guidance and activities to develop language, prereading, prewriting, and other foundational skills appropriate to his or her stage of development. Physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual development are also interrelated.

Infants and Toddlers: Our infant and toddler classroom schedules fluctuate depending on each child's developmental needs. Throughout the day, they participate in educational activities that promote color and shape recognition and small and gross motor skills. Communication between teacher and parent will take place daily.

Preschool (2 thru K): The following is a general daily schedule which may fluctuate slightly for each class. You will find your child's classroom schedule posted on their parent board.

Arrival – 9:00	Fun activities / Outside activities
9:00 – 9:30	Circle Time
9:30 – 10:00	Snack Time
10:00 – 11:00	Learning Centers & Activities of the Day
11:00 – 11:45	Outside Time
11:45 – 12:00	Story Time ~ while we wash up for lunch
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch ~ We love to eat!
1:00 – 3:00	Nap Time/Quiet Time
3:00 – 3:20	Snack Time
3:20 – 6:00	Afternoon Activities / Outside Activities



DISPENSING MEDICATION

Prescription medication is limited to emergency care only. If your child is in need of emergency medication, written authorization from the parent and physician is required through the *Authorization to Administer Medication Form*. These forms are located in the main office and must be completed and returned to an administrator along with the medication. Medication must be presented in its original container with the prescription label or direction label attached. All directions must be consistent with the manufacturer's instructions for age, duration and dosage, unless otherwise directed by the physician.

According to the Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, Barefoot Kids will dispose of medications that the parent does not pick up within 14 days from the expiration date of authorization. *Sending medicine to school in your child's backpack or cup is strictly prohibited.*

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

While young children are learning, every effort will be made to channel the child's interests in other directions before using disciplinary actions. If diversion methods are ineffective, the child is required to sit and think about his/her actions for a short time. If this is unsuccessful, a conference with the teacher, director, and/or parents may be called to discuss positive methods such as short- and long-term incentives, which may be used at home and in school to promote more appropriate behavior. Staff shall promptly inform parents when persistent behavioral problems are identified; such notification shall include any disciplinary steps taken in response.

Forbidden disciplinary actions including physical punishment, striking a child, rough handling, demeaning remarks, withholding food, and all other actions described in the Minimum Standards for licensed Child Day Centers are strictly prohibited.

INJURY & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of a "minor injury" as defined by the **Regulations for Licensed Child Day Centers** during a school session, the parent or authorized adult will be notified by the end of the day. The injury will be documented in the form of a **BooBoo Report** sent via *MyBrightwheel app*. An additional report will be kept on file in the office. In case of a serious injury or medical emergency during a school session, a certified staff member will administer first aid. The parent or authorized adult will be notified immediately if a child is lost, requires emergency medical treatment or sustains a serious injury. If medical attention is required, the staff will call 911. You will be expected to assume any expense not covered by our insurance. **Barefoot Kids'** Emergency Preparedness Plan is located in the main office and can be reviewed anytime by a parent or guardian.

For inclement weather, closings, or specific instructions, please call **Barefoot Kids** or visit us at www.BarefootKids.com. In the event that **Barefoot Kids** cannot be reached, we will follow the Virginia Beach Public School System.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY AS STATED IN BAREFOOT KIDS' EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

If parents can reach the school without danger to themselves and without interference with disaster workers, they must come to pick up their children immediately. Children will be released only to parents, guardians, or other designated persons. Parents should wait for a phone call from **Barefoot Kids** at their designated phone line. The parent must call Barefoot Kids immediately if the phone line is not operational. In the meantime, continue listening to the radio and/or television channels for progress reports on whatever disaster occurs. Follow official instructions as officials relay via the radio and/or television.

NUTRITION

Children who are in the full day program will receive two snacks and a lunch. Snacks will always include at least two food groups and lunch will always include foods from all four groups. All food served will meet USDA recommended guidelines. Breakfast is not provided; our morning snack is served around 9:30 a.m. *Please notify the school if your child has any food allergies.*

Infant feedings should be completed in a timely fashion in the mornings in order to make a smooth transition. If your child is due for a feeding shortly after arrival, please ensure that you have provided a warmed bottle and ready to feed. This ensures that the child is able to be fed promptly, not waiting for the bottles to warm up.

Parents are welcome to send cookies, cupcakes, etc. to share with their children's friends on birthdays and special occasions. However, please ensure all goodies have been store-bought and include a label for the ingredients. Please inform your child's teacher that you will bring a treat. Remember to bring enough for the entire class.

Barefoot Kids acknowledges that it is virtually impossible to guarantee an absolutely safe environment for those with life-threatening allergies. Therefore, we maintain a “no-nut” policy to create the safest possible environment. Some children may be so allergic to peanut and nut products that even the smallest trace of a substance, such as peanut butter, can cause a potentially fatal reaction. We therefore ask that *no peanut butter or nut products* be brought to school for snacks, parties, lunches, etc.

HEALTH POLICIES

All children are required to have the State Health Form filled out by a physician and returned to **Barefoot Kids** within thirty days of their first day of school. If a child’s health care summary is not complete at the beginning of school or within thirty (30) days after school starts; enrollment will be terminated.

The health and safety of your child is of major importance to us. If a child becomes ill at school or has irregular behavior/symptoms, we will contact the parents. Once informed of your child’s illness or irregular behavior/symptoms, you must make arrangements for your child to be picked up from Barefoot Kids immediately. Please know that we do not take this lightly, as the daily routine is more consistent when your child is in attendance regularly, healthy and happy. We will ONLY call to notify you of a necessary pick up if we are genuinely concerned. Please note that this is solely at the discretion of Barefoot Kids, as children are best suited to be with a parent when he/she is out of sorts.

If we are unable to make contact, we will let the student rest in a quiet area until someone can be reached. For this reason, we ask that you provide us with up-to-date phone numbers. If you refuse to pick up your child, termination of care may occur.

*If **Barefoot Kids** sends your child home for any reason, he/she will not be allowed to return to school for 48 hours - unless written permission is obtained from a doctor or stated otherwise by **Barefoot Kids**. If you have questions, you’re welcome to call Ms. Jenifer any time (757.449.3479).*

Please keep your child home if he/she has...
*Fever over 101 degrees in the previous 24 hours
*Unidentified skin rashes or bumps
*Recurrent Vomit or Diarrhea
*A heavy discharge from the nose or eyes
*A constant cough
*Lice
*Symptoms of contagious diseases such as chicken pox, measles, strep throat, etc.

According to VDH, you must inform Barefoot Kids within 24 hours after a child or any immediate household member develops a reportable communicable disease, as defined by the State Board of Health, except for life-threatening diseases that must be reported immediately. You will find a complete list here:

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/13/2016/03/Communicable_Disease_Chart.pdf

REMINDER: We will be outside on all but rainy and extremely cold days. PLEASE DO NOT SEND A NOTE REQUESTING THAT YOUR CHILD STAY INDOORS FOR THE DAY. Children who are too ill to participate in outdoor activities will be happier at home.

Barefoot Kids is a smoke-free facility & strictly prohibits smoking, weapons or other hazards on the premises by anyone other than business owners & spouses.

PARENT COMMUNICATION & AGREEMENTS

As a parent/guardian...

- I understand that I am to pick up my child from Barefoot Kids immediately in a natural or man-made emergency.
- **I understand that I am to pick up my child from Barefoot Kids immediately due to illness or irregular behavior/symptoms as identified by Barefoot Kids.**
- I grant permission for my child to be transported to a safe location in an emergency.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to update and inform **Barefoot Kids** of any changes to my child's registration information.
- I affirm that my child can function in group care without being a detriment to himself/herself or others.
- I understand that my child must be fully potty-trained to attend the pre-kindergarten program and up. If my child has repetitive accidents, he/she will be placed in a preschool classroom until consistent, successful use of the bathroom occurs.
- I grant permission for my child to participate in the activities and the use of the equipment at the school. I agree that **Barefoot Kids** assumes no responsibility for injuries or losses caused by situations or inappropriate behavior beyond its control.
- I fully consent to allow **Barefoot Kids**, its officers, employees, and representatives to use any media, including but not limited to film and electronic photography or video, taken during this program for all purposes, including publicity and marketing. I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my child's likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph.
- I acknowledge that all newsletters and general announcements will be sent via email and/or *MyBrightwheel app*. If I cannot receive emails, I must pick up a copy of the information from the office.
- **Barefoot Kids** may send information pertaining to your child's care via text message and will not be liable for charges.
- I acknowledge that all urgent information will be communicated through *MyBrightwheel app*. It is my responsibility to sign up to receive personal and group notifications.

REQUEST OF RECORDS

Barefoot Kids reserves the right to charge for a request of records or additional information, as well as for professional time in legal cases.

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Section 63.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia requires any person providing full or part-time childcare for pay on a regular basis to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Staff members who suspect child abuse or neglect will report any incident to the school director. The administrator will then contact the appropriate agency.

WITHDRAWALS

If a child must be withdrawn from school, two weeks' notice is required so that we can make a smooth transition for the student leaving and the one entering in his/her place. Parents wishing to withdraw their child who fail to provide a two-week notice will be liable for the last weeks' tuition.

If a child is found to have severe emotional, behavioral, or learning challenges which interfere with adjustments in the classroom, or that are a safety risk to the teacher or other children in attendance, **Barefoot Kids** reserves

the right, after consultation, to have him/her withdrawn from the program. **Barefoot Kids also reserves the right to reject annual re-enrollment for the abovementioned scenarios.**

Barefoot Kids reserves the right to terminate your child's enrollment for irreconcilable differences, at which time the parents will be informed of reasons for termination of services. **Barefoot Kids** also reserves the right to make necessary policy changes anytime. Parents will be informed of changes through e-mail and our monthly parent newsletter.

WHAT DO I NEED FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

- Completed Registration Papers*
- Completed Shot Record or State Health Form*
 - Must receive the State Health Form within first 30 days of enrollment
 - Must be updated every 6 months until the age of 2
- Original Birth Certificate for Documentation*
- Seasonal Change of Clothing, including socks
 - Please place in a zip lock bag
- Crib Sheet and Small Blanket
- Water Bottle labeled with your child's name (no bigger than 14oz)
- Backpack
- Toddlers & Infants have additional requirements.
 - Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Special Food, Bibs, Burp Cloths & A One-Days' Emergency Supply of disposable bottles, nipples, and commercial formulas shall be maintained at the school.
- Please label all personal belongings with your child's initials!

All documentation is confidential, will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, and will be shared with other staff members only as required to meet the needs of the child.



Do you have questions, comments, or other information?
Please Feel Free to Call:

Jenifer Barefoot Hixenbaugh, Owner/Director
(cell) 757-449-3479

*Revised March 2025
Translations made upon request.*