



# Parent & Family Handbook

**Learn, Laugh, Love in a Christian Environment**

Virginia Hills Baptist Church Preschool  
6507 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
703-971-4222 x 103

revised June 2017

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# ♥ Welcome to Preschool!



This handbook is planned for your use. It is designed to explain the VHBC Preschool program, better equip you with all of the necessary information for you and your child(ren) to have the best preschool experience, and to show you how you can help your child make the necessary adjustments.

## **WHAT IS VHBC PRESCHOOL?**

VHBC Preschool is a ministry of Virginia Hills Baptist Church. It was originally organized as a “mother’s day out” so mothers could enjoy some “child-free” hours each week. In this program, a child is always learning and developing. Each day brings opportunities to play, investigate, and express ideas through:

**Creative Activities** -- Self-expression through the use of paints, clay, crayons, manual tools, and other materials.

**Field Trips** -- The older classes visit points of interest in our area to help the children establish appreciation for people who contribute to their lives.

**Group Living** -- Planning, working, and playing in an organized environment so that desirable habits and attitudes, independence, and responsibility are established.

**Language Experiences** -- Enjoying stories, verse, conversation, and dramatization.

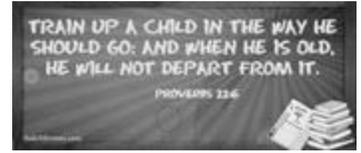
**Music Experiences** -- Responding rhythmically to songs, singing, and listening to music. Introduction to various instruments.

**Readiness Experiences** -- Offering basic fundamentals of learning.

**Relaxation** -- Indoor/outdoor play and quiet time.



# VHBC PRESCHOOL OBJECTIVES



## **Spiritual.** To help children:

Enhance an awareness of God's presence in the world and of God's love.

Cultivate a relationship with Jesus.

Share the love of God and His world with love toward all people.

Think of the church as a special place to learn about God and Jesus.

## **Social & Emotional.** To help children:

Develop and exhibit a healthy self-esteem, self-worth, and self-control and promote the same in others.

Learn through individual and group experiences to show respect, love, kindness, and patience toward others.

Follow age appropriate boundaries that create a daily routine.

Understand and obey simple directions.

Accept appropriate individual and group responsibility.

## **Language & Emerging Literacy.** To help children:

Develop enjoyment of stories and awareness of use of books.

Gain exposure to age appropriate concepts in order to improve and expand cognitive processes, vocabulary, and communication skills.

Develop and demonstrate age appropriate verbal and print communication.

## **Physical.** To help children:

Develop gross motor skills through creative movement.

Use a building block approach to strengthen fine motor skills in preparation of writing skills by manipulation of age appropriate objects.

Using a variety of activities and projects, develop appropriate coordination.

Cultivate a love for healthy activities.

## **Cognitive.** To help children:

Gain awareness of their role in a dynamic and diverse world of people, places, and things.

Cultivate a developmentally appropriate foundation for numbers, art, reading, and writing skills.

Develop and cultivate creativity and memory.



# A PRESCHOOL DAY

**Health Inspection.** Teachers will inspect children upon arrival. Children should be kept at home when they show any of the following symptoms: sore throat, earache, diarrhea, swollen glands, runny nose, fever, rash or other obvious symptoms. **See Guideline of When a Child Can Return on the next page. Your cooperation in this is appreciated.**

**Working, Playing, and Learning Together.** Each child chooses from a variety of activities such as looking at books, working with puzzles, manipulating blocks, creating works of art, or playing in home-living and other centers.

**Worship Training.** Informal worship experiences including Bible stories, Chapel and saying grace at mealtimes.

**Cleaning Up.** There is a specific place for all materials and equipment in each room. After materials are used, they are put back in their proper places. Each child assumes responsibility for cleaning the area and putting away materials that have been used.

**Developing Physically.** Using playground equipment and creative movement games to aid in physical development.

**Quiet Time.** While naps are not a part of our daily routine, periods of activity are alternated with periods of quiet.

**Eating Together.** Eating together gives each child an opportunity to learn desirable table manners, good food habits, and the give and take of conversation. Children bring lunches from home. Please put the child's name on the outside of the lunch box. Please pack food that is nutritious and that enables a child to feed himself/herself. Candy, gum, nuts, and soda are not acceptable. You can find a list of healthy suggestions at our website: [www.virginiahillsbaptist.com](http://www.virginiahillsbaptist.com) and under the *Parent Resources* Tab in the *Weekday Preschool* Tab. Please do not send foods that must be chilled, warmed, cooked, or cut up. Avoid messy foods (*no GoGurt, please!*). To avoid waste, send an appropriate amount of food, as what is not eaten will be returned in lunch box so that you are aware of what your child ate (if possible). Please note we also encourage the eating of "growing" (a protein, etc.) foods prior to any carbohydrates, fruits, or sweets. Mid-morning snacks will be provided by parents on a rotation basis (see teacher for details, as each class may have a specific process).

**Sharing Group Experiences.** Singing songs, listening to music, responding to rhythms, taking nature walks, going on field trips, listening to stories or poems, talking together, and dramatizing stories all contribute to make VHBC Preschool a happy place!

**Music/Movement.** All classes attend music/movement each day. Music/Movement classes may include singing, playing instruments, following directions, rhythm, and movement to music.



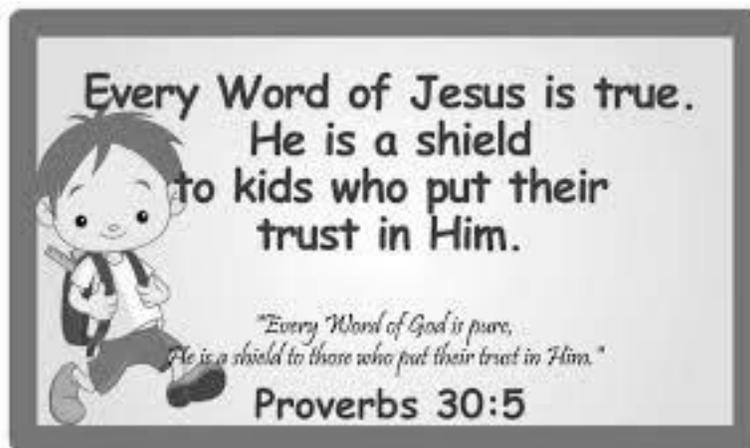
## WHEN A CHILD CAN RETURN

These guidelines are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association. These guidelines will be observed unless your child has a doctor's release that specifically re-admits them to the school prior to the guideline listed. Be assured that we follow these guidelines with all students to best minimize the spread of viruses, etc.

- Chicken Pox (Varicella):** Cannot return until 7 days after onset of rash or until all lesions have dried and crusted.
- Diarrhea (uncontrolled):** Defined as an increase in number of stools compared with child's normal pattern, with increased watery stool and/or decreased formed consistency that cannot be contained by diaper or toilet use. The child cannot return until he/she has had normal stools for 24 hours. If a child is on a medication that causes diarrhea, we require a doctor's note for the file (which we can keep for further reference).
- Fever:** Must be fever free for 24 hours.
- Head Lice (and other infestations):** In the case of lice, must have been treated and nit free (please note this is a different policy than public schools) and in other instances of infestations (scabies, etc.) must not return until 24 hours after treatment has begun, and in all instances be checked by Director before returning.
- Hepatitis A:** Cannot return until one week after the onset of illness or until the immune serum globulin has been given to the appropriate children and team members in the program as directed by the responsible health department.
- Impetigo:** Cannot return until 48 hours after treatment has begun.
- Measles:** Cannot return until 6 days after the rash appears.
- Mouth Sores:** Must have a doctor's note stating that the child is non-infectious.
- Mumps:** Cannot return until 9 days after the onset of swelling of glands near the ear.
- Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis):** 24 hours after documented treatment for conjunctivitis has begun.
- Rash:** With any rash accompanied by a fever or behavior change, the child cannot return until they have a doctor's note stating that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Ringworm:** Cannot return until 24 hours after starting treatment or a doctor's note stating child is non-infectious.



- Rubella:** Cannot return until 6 days after the rash appears.
- Shingles:** Child needs to be excluded only if the sores cannot be covered by clothing or a dressing, until sores have crusted.
- Strep Throat:** 24 hours after documented treatment has begun.
- Tuberculosis:** Must have a doctor's note stating that the child is non-infectious.
- Vomit:** Must not have vomited for 24 hours.
- Whooping Cough:** Cannot return until 5 days of appropriate treatment has been started.



## DISCIPLINE



We believe that children need boundaries in order to feel secure about themselves and their environment. The purpose of discipline is to help children learn acceptable behavior and develop self-control. The basis for our Discipline Policy is an organized classroom and prepared staff members. At VHBC Preschool, we strive to develop a positive relationship between the teacher and the child. We also believe that if an interesting and challenging program is offered to the child, then discipline problems are at a minimum. If inappropriate behavior does occur, we begin with a positive and Christ-like approach. We also make it a priority to praise appropriate behaviors as an effort to minimize inappropriate behaviors. Some of the methods used to accomplish this are:

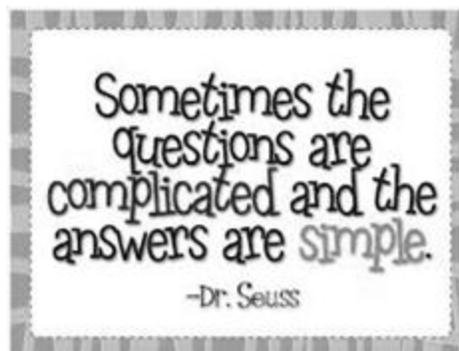
- Redirection: encourage a child's good behavior and/or redirect his or her activity.
- Time Out/Think Time: One minute per year of age, no more than three minutes. Defined as time away from the activity. The child is encouraged and allowed to return to the activity as soon as possible.
- Discussion: The teacher will try to help the child identify his/her behavior and possible alternatives to avoid consequences.
- Behavior Report: If a child's inappropriate behavior continues and/or severity denotes an un-resolved problem, the parent will be notified.
- Behavior Intervention Meeting: If an on-going behavior persists, a meeting may be called by the parent, the lead teacher and/or director. More individualized methods of Behavioral Management can be discussed that are within reason.
- Sending a Child Home: Only as a last resort, and at the discretion of Preschool Director, and when a child fails to respond to the appropriate measures taken by VHBC Preschool staff.
- Suspension: If three Behavior Reports are utilized within a nine week period and methods agreed upon in Behavior Intervention Meeting are failing, then a week suspension *MAY* occur. Fees are continued to be paid during this time.
- Termination of Services: Utilized only when the severity of a problem is great enough that it could endanger the safety of the child(ren)'s welfare. This is after consultation with Director, Teachers, involved Staff members, and Parents. This is considered a drastic measure and it is the hope of our school to be avoided, however, if a child's behavior significantly and directly threatens the physical or mental health, safety or well-being of one or more of the other children or team members, and that threat cannot be eliminated, it may be utilized.

VHBC Preschool welcomes parental involvement and cooperation in all areas of discipline. We reserve the right to discontinue services with any child/parent whose needs we cannot meet. The key to effective discipline is consistency—it is our mission and goal to provide a warm, loving atmosphere in which the child is given the opportunity to grow and learn.



## WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

1. For the safety of your child and for preparation time for the teachers, please have your child at school **no earlier than 9 a.m.** Parents should bring the child to the door of the classroom at 9 a.m. where a teacher, aide or co-op helper will greet the child and assist with removing coats, etc.
2. Please take your children to the restroom and/or wash hands prior to entering the classroom (Sanitation Stations are also available)—this will help us limit the spread of viruses that are so common.
3. Help your child dress comfortably in clothing that is durable, washable, and appropriate for weather conditions. The child's name should be on all outerwear — coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. A change of seasonably and size appropriate clothes should be kept in the child's backpack.
4. Have your child attend regularly unless ill. Please call or email the school to explain any absence.
5. Teach self-reliance by encouraging your child to work independently when possible. Allow plenty of time.
6. Refrain from discussing your child in his/her presence.
7. Work with your child's teacher concerning any problems that may arise.
8. Show interest in your child's work and in projects that are sent home, understanding that not every activity or project will make its way home.
9. Take time to listen to your child's daily experiences and discuss them with real interest.
10. Help your child anticipate happy experiences at preschool!
11. **Pick up your child promptly at 1 p.m.** There will be a charge of \$5 per child for every five minutes late after 1:05 p.m.

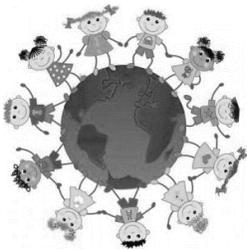


## SCHEDULE AND HOLIDAYS

VHBC Preschool begins the Tuesday after Labor Day and ends the last Friday in May.

VHBC Preschool holidays will coincide mostly with those of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). **Closings and late openings** for reasons of inclement weather will be the **same** as those for Fairfax County Schools. **Early dismissals do not** usually affect our schedule when the public school is dismissing early for inclement weather, as the conclusion of our day is well in advance of the public schools needing to dismiss; however, any change to this policy will be clearly communicated. Closings are broadcast on most radio and television stations and VHBC Preschool utilizes the REMIND text communication system that will send you a text alert advising you of any delays and/or closings if you wish to subscribe. (your child's teacher will provide instructions on how to subscribe to this). This information will also be posted on our website ([www.virginiahillsbaptist.com/weekdaypreschool](http://www.virginiahillsbaptist.com/weekdaypreschool)) as soon as it is decided.

Snow days do not necessarily require make-ups, as extra days have been worked into the school calendar, however, consideration may be made under unusual circumstances.



## REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- Classes are available for children ages 12 months to 5 years of age.
- We are a September through May Preschool. The child is considered enrolled for the entire school year.
- A registration fee is required upon enrollment and should accompany registration forms. This **non-refundable** fee covers the cost of administrative paper work and insurance.
- A copy of each child's Birth Certificate and a Virginia Health Form must be on file **before** they can attend!



## TUITION

- The first month's tuition is payable on June 1st and will count toward September's payment.
- Tuition is then payable one month in advance (i.e. tuition for September – May school year is due September 1 – March 1).
- Tuition may be paid in full at the beginning of the year or divided into equal monthly payments. Each subsequent month you will receive an invoice on the 20th payable by the 1st for the following month's tuition. A late fee of \$10 will be added to the tuition not paid by the 5th of the month. **There will be no refunds for temporary absences or illnesses.** A \$25 late fee will be assessed for overdue fees of any amount not paid by the last day of school and monthly thereafter for any and all overdue account balances.
- Please make checks payable to VHBC Preschool. The preschool shall not be held responsible for tuition payments not placed in designated areas of collection. For monthly checks, there is a zippered, clear plastic collection envelope at each classroom entrance. Cash, money orders, personal checks for large amounts, or cashier's checks should be given to the preschool director. If you pay in cash, please bring the exact amount.
- If you prefer to have the tuition automatically deducted each month, there is an authorization form available in the Preschool Office, or on our website ([www.virginiahillsbaptist.com](http://www.virginiahillsbaptist.com)).
- There will be a \$25 fee assessed for checks returned from the bank and all future payments may be required to be paid by cash or money order.
- All fees paid to Virginia Hills Baptist Church Preschool are for services rendered and are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.
- There is a \$10 discount per month when more than one child in the family attends the program.

Age of Child	Days Attending	Tuition/Mo.
1, 2 & 3 year olds	2 days per week (T, Th)	\$ 240
	3 days per week (M, W, F)	\$ 315
	5 days per week (M-F)	\$ 435
4 year olds	4 days (M-Th)	\$ 380
	5 days (M-F)	\$ 435
Jr. Kindergarten (5 yr. olds)	5 days (M-F)	\$ 435

\*\*New for 2017-18 is a full time option from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. for \$980 a month.

## WITHDRAWALS

VHBC Preschool understands that circumstances beyond control can result in a child needing to withdraw during the school year. A written 30 day notice is required and the form is available on our website ([www.virginiahillsbaptist.com](http://www.virginiahillsbaptist.com)) as well as in the Preschool Office. Policy states that the parent/guardian remains responsible for tuition until the opening spot can be filled. Due to the fact that we will not be able to fill spots toward the end of the school year, after March 1<sup>st</sup>, remaining tuition balances will be due.





## **SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **Parking Lot:**

**Parking Spaces:** The Fairfax County Fire Department and our insurance carrier require that these parking rules be in place and enforced. Parking is prohibited along any yellow curb AT ANY TIME. There are many designated parking spaces, a gravel lot up by the garage and the driveway curbs that are NOT painted yellow.

**Speed Limit:** We require all vehicles entering the driveway, driving through the lot, and exiting the driveway to drive at a maximum of 15-20 mph. This is for the safety of the adults and children that are entering and exiting the building.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phone use (talking or texting) is prohibited on the grounds. This will aid to ensure that distractions are limited as vehicles are entering/exiting, and adults/children enter/exit.

**Kiss and Ride:** For parents who have infants and expecting mothers **ONLY**, Kiss and Ride is available beginning Oct. 5th at the main entrance.

If anyone transporting your child does not abide by the parking lot rules, they will be given a warning. Additional infractions may result in your child's removal from our program.

### **Playground Rules:**

Our playground rules are also for the safety of the children in our program and the families who use our playground during non-preschool hours. It is hard for us to enforce our playground rules during school when those same rules are not applied during non-school hours. Therefore, please keep a careful eye on your children and enforce these rules with your children anytime they are playing on the Virginia Hills Baptist Church playground.

1. No throwing objects (sticks, rocks, toys, etc.)
2. No climbing on TOP of the equipment at any time
3. Sand must stay in the sandbox at all times
4. All playground equipment is to be used for its intended purpose **ONLY**
5. Please clean up the playground after use



# COMMUNICATION

Parents are asked to either write a note or tell the teacher of any daily situations that might affect the child's behavior.

Please send in a written notice when anyone other than yourself will pick up your child. In an emergency you may telephone a name to the director or the preschool office. Verbal messages brought by children cannot be accepted. Please give your child's teacher a list of any regular carpool arrangements.

A monthly newsletter is distributed via email and hardcopy in backpacks from the Preschool Office. Please take the time to read it carefully, as it will contain pertinent dates and items of interest. Your child's teacher(s) will communicate via their class email more detailed and specific class information. Other means of teacher/parent communication include quick conversations in the morning and/or at pickup, notes home, etc. Please remember to keep drop off and pick up as timely as possible so that it is efficient for the class and the school.

The Preschool Website is available 24/7 and is updated weekly with school wide information. It can be found through our church's website at [www.virginiahillsbaptist.com](http://www.virginiahillsbaptist.com) and go to Weekday Preschool.

VHBC Preschool has implemented the Remind Text alert system, and has proven to be beneficial in announcing delays, closings, last minute information, etc. Information as to how to subscribe to this service to receive your class' text alerts is on page 16 of this handbook.

Parents will receive an informal student progress and assessment report no later than February. Individual conferences may be requested at any time. Pre-K and Jr. K classes have scheduled parent-teacher conferences at the end of the year.

## FIELD TRIPS (Pre-K and Jr. K)

Classroom field trips will be scheduled throughout the year for the Pre-K and Jr. K classes. A note will be sent home to remind you of these events. A permission slip must be completed in order for your child to go on an excursion.

Teachers and Parents provide the transportation to and from these field trips. As each trip approaches, teachers will arrange what parents can attend, and which children will need transportation. Children's car/booster seat will need to be made available.

The Activity Fee paid at registration or beginning of the year covers the costs of these field trips, as well as a school shirt that we ask each pre-kindergartner and junior kindergartner to wear to make them easily identifiable by parents and teachers.



## ACCIDENTS

VHBC Preschool will immediately notify one of the parents should an accident occur. Regarding minor injuries, only washing, band-aids, and ice can be administered. Each parent of a child will be notified of any accidents/incidences that involve multiple children. Please be aware that due to privacy, we may not be able to disclose other children's names.



## BITING POLICY

Biting is a common and developmentally appropriate behavior in young children, especially those from 9-30 months. Generally, children over the age of 3 have developed more appropriate ways to communicate. Experts in the field of child development report that biting occurs chiefly as a result of the child's inability to communicate. Children may become upset by a new experience, and may use biting as a response. We understand it is upsetting to parents and caregivers when it occurs. The goal is to replace any undesirable behavior with more effective ways of managing any uneasiness within a child. The following are examples of pre-emptive strategies we employ:

- For toddlers, positive teething activities will be provided to comfort and soothe their gums.
- When children bite out of frustration or anger, behavior will be redirected to some other activity and the child will be shown an alternate way to communicate. The use of language will be encouraged to express wants and needs.
- Parents will be notified if their child is bitten at school, however, in order to protect the privacy of all families, the name of the biter will not be disclosed.
- If a child bites frequently, staff will utilize a more intensive approach which involves carefully observing the child to determine precipitating events and maintaining a log to help track the behavior.
- Biting incidents will be communicated to the parents/caregiver of the biter to ensure staff and parents are working together to understand and prevent this behavior.

## EMERGENCY PLANS

VHBC Preschool abides by Fairfax County regulations to have a determined amount of Fire Drills each year so that the children are comfortable with the procedure should an emergency arise. The Preschool Administration works directly with County Officials should any other emergency arise and will take any appropriate and necessary action.



## MISCELLANEOUS

Twins will normally be assigned to the same class in the younger age groups, but separated for the Pre-K year.

All outer wear and belongings are to be labeled with your child's name. Teachers will take the children outside if the weather permits (above 32°) so be sure to send appropriate outerwear and shoes that are safe for playground (closed toe). If rain boots are worn in the morning, please change into playground appropriate shoes, as it may not be raining during playground time.

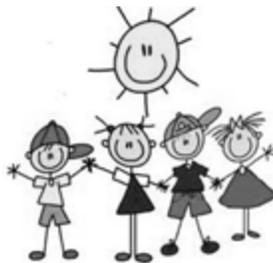
Children must wear some type of underwear. Pre-K students must be potty trained. Younger children who are not potty-trained **MUST** wear disposable diapers (no cloth diapers). Please send extra diapers with your child. We do not potty train, but will work with you as best we can as you advise when this time occurs.

VHBC Preschool offers a Beforecare service beginning at 8 a.m. and an Aftercare service that goes until 3 p.m. This is a mixed age program which allows the children to interact with various age groups, but still in a very well monitored setting. More information and a schedule of fees as well as registration form can be located on our website or in the Preschool Office.

Student Portraits will be offered twice throughout the school year—in the fall and again in the spring. Spring Portraits will also include cap and gown pictures for our Pre-K and Jr. K classes, so we will take each Pre-Kindergartner and Jr. Kindergartner's picture as those pictures are incorporated into our end of the year program. You are under no obligation to purchase.

At the conclusion of each school year, a summer camp is offered to those already registered in our preschool. Camp runs the same hours as school, from 9-1, and Aftercare will still be offered at an additional fee. More information and registration will be available in the spring.

To keep our tuition competitive and affordable, we often have fundraisers throughout the school year. While we invite you to participate in as many as you feel led, and are able, please know that we do not expect every family to participate in every fundraiser. Our goal is to provide a variety of opportunities so that each family can choose those that are most suitable to their family and budget. We welcome parental assistance with many of our fundraisers. See the Director for details.



## ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Virginia Hills Baptist Church provides two worship services with something for all ages. A Contemporary service is offered at 9:30 with Nursery (0-4 years old) and a Traditional service at 11 a.m. which includes a Children's Sermon within it, and then school age children proceed to age appropriate activities for the remainder of the service. The Traditional service also provides a Nursery for 0-4 year olds.

The following is a schedule of weekly activities at Virginia Hills. You are cordially invited to attend any service and to participate in the programs of the church. If you don't have a church home, we welcome you to check us out and plug in where able. If you do have a church home, we would love to see you at any of our special events.

Sunday:	Contemporary Service	9:30 a.m.
	Morning Worship Service	11:00
	Children's Church Program	11:00
	Ladies' Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	Wednesday Night Dinner	
	Kidz Klub (K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade)	
	Ignite (5-7 <sup>th</sup> grade)	6:00 p.m.
	Youth Group Meeting	6:45
	Bible Study and Prayer	6:45
	Meeting Sanctuary Choir	6:30
	Rehearsal	6:45 7:30

VHBC Preschool is operated by Virginia Hills Baptist Church and is an extension of its ministry in the community. The director of VHBC Preschool, who is elected by the church, makes regular reports to the church. The teachers are selected by Director and Board of Deacons.



Virginia Hills Baptist Church  
6507 Telegraph Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310-3324



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Teachers and staff are required to have a college degree and/or experience in working with young children. Our teachers are loving, caring and attentive. We seek to help children develop their abilities to the fullest, and to imbue them with a sense of self-worth and confidence. Staff members are required to earn continuing education credits in order to remain current on latest trends, ideas, and concepts in early childhood education. Please check out the “*Staff Bio ’s*” section of our website for detailed information regarding each teacher.
2. Our physical facilities include 11 classrooms, plus a lunchroom, chapel, music room, creative movement area, and an outside playground. The building is located at 6507 Telegraph Road on eight acres of land with approximately 25,000 square feet of indoor space.
3. All staff and substitutes are required to have an annual certificate of health and tuberculin test (PPD) on file.
4. Virginia Hills Baptist Church is protected by public liability insurance.
5. Enrollment capacity at Virginia Hills Baptist Church Preschool is no more than 100 children per day.
6. VHBC Preschool operates under Section 63.1-196.3 of the Code of Virginia. We operate well **under** state mandated ratios for teacher to child within each age group.



## Virginia's Child Restraint Device Law

(Code of Virginia Article 13 - Section 46.2)



The major requirements of Virginia's Child Restraint Device Law:

- Child restraint devices are required for children **through the age of seven (until 8<sup>th</sup> birthday)**. Child restraint devices must be **properly used** and meet standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation.
- Rear-facing child restraint devices shall be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat, only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.
- Children can no longer ride unrestrained in the rear cargo area of vehicles.
- The law applies to **anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation** for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968.
- Public transportation (taxis, buses), regulation school buses, and farm vehicles are exempted.
- The child restraint device law is **primary enforcement** -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child in an approved seat.
- A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to transport a child in a child restraint device. A \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. **All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.**
- Any person found guilty of violating § 46.2 a second or subsequent time when the violations occurred on different dates shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500.
- There are assistance programs for low-income residents who cannot afford a safety seat. Contact Virginia Department of Health, Injury, Suicide and Violence Program at 1-800-732-8333 for more information.

## Virginia's Passenger Safety Belt Law

(Code of Virginia Article 12 - Section 46.2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Belt Law:

- **All child passengers ages 8 through age 17, (until 18<sup>th</sup> birthday)**, must be belted correctly in vehicle safety belts in vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1968. Exemptions include taxicabs, school buses, limousines and executive sedans.
- This safety belt law is a **primary enforcement** for all child passengers-- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child correctly buckled up.
- A \$50 civil penalty fine will be imposed. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.
- Any person found guilty of violating § 46.2 a second or subsequent time when the violations occurred on different dates shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500.

## Virginia's Pickup Truck Law

(Code of Virginia Section 46.2 - 1094)

The major requirements of Virginia's Pickup Truck Law:

- No child under the age of 18 shall be transported in the rear cargo area of a pickup truck. There are exemptions for farming operations.

For more information, contact:  
Injury and Violence Prevention Program  
Virginia Department of Health  
109 Governor Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richmond, VA 23219  
1-800-732-8333

02/13

