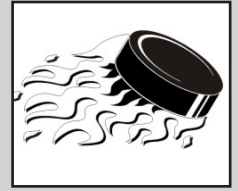


## Coach Rex

# Providing the Right Start – Making a Difference



Over the years, we have taught players from the ages of 5 to 75 with skill levels ranging from tyke to professional. We have enjoyed teaching and tweaking the skating and hockey skills of thousands of players. Personally, one of my favorite age groups is the 7 year old Novice level.

We enjoy and preserve what we love  
We love what we understand  
We understand because we have been taught  
The Tucker Hockey Way!

The Tucker Hockey Way has been to provide a positive and fun learning environment for the kids. The role of the instructors is to teach skating, hockey skills, life skills, and to have fun in the process so as to instill and grow the love of the game. There's an art and science to connecting with the kids and helping them improve on their skating and hockey skills. It's a balancing act to teach skating skills, not get too serious and make it an enjoyable experience.

Since 1999, Tucker Hockey has a formula that works, with proven results. Kids need to feel comfortable on the ice, to be themselves, to be relaxed so that they can listen, watch, and learn. Players will often fall down during the skating drills again and again. We often say you can fall down... we want to see more players falling...it shows that you are trying hard to learn and to improve. But if you fall down you must get up faster than you fall down! Kids need to be instilled with a thirst to learn, to want to come to the rink and to be upset if they can't. It's important to have a gentle approach...not to be too intense and end up turning the kids off. Not all kids learn the same way, some learn by listening, some by seeing, and all by doing. We often use the expression "It's like throwing a pizza against the wall....more sticks for some kids than others!"

We want to ensure that we have a positive influence on their skating skill development and love for the game. A better skater becomes a better hockey player. When you become a more accomplished hockey player, you become more successful, and therefore have more fun playing the game.

This positive story below from one delighted parent warms

my heart and reinforces to myself and our instructors that we are making a difference.

*My son, Billy, is in this week's 7-10 year old power skating course. The first two sessions were great, Billy came off the ice excited for the next session and it was great to see him learn so quickly. Billy, unfortunately, on Wednesday, slammed his finger in the door of the truck ... As a result, it has been quite painful for Billy to put on his hockey gloves and hold his stick, and he has, with his head hung low, not been able to make the last two sessions.*

*Billy turns 7 in February - to see a kid that young be that upset to not to be able to come to the sessions, says how good of instructors he has had and how much fun he has had.*

*So if Billy doesn't make it to today's session, please extend my thank you to Rex, Jimmy, and Jessica - they kept Billy working hard and kept it fun for him. As a parent, it was great to see!*

*Thank you!  
Kevin Morris*

For Tucker Hockey, it's not about getting players to the NHL, rather it's about instilling a love of the game, to enhance skating and hockey skills, and to make a "difference" in the life of a child.

**"God doesn't ask us to do great things. He asks us to do small things with great love."**

**~Mother Theresa**

