



## About our Preschool

- We believe all children learn through play and hands-on experiences. Our classrooms, daily schedules, activities, materials, and behavior strategies all reflect an understanding and appreciation for each *individual child*.
- Our small class sizes and low student-teacher ratio (8:1 child to adult) allows teachers to respond to the individual needs of your child.
- We incorporate principles of Creative Curriculum ([www.creativecurriculum.com](http://www.creativecurriculum.com)) in our classes.
- We have a highly qualified teaching staff—all of our preschool teachers have Master’s degrees. All of our teaching staff have completed CPR & First Aid and child abuse awareness training. Our teachers receive continuing education throughout the year and their careers.
- Music and art are an integral part of our daily classroom routines. Our music director teaches music each week in our large and bright music room. In addition, our classroom teachers take turns developing art projects which focus on a common theme each month.
- We believe in fitness and provide Physical Education with a full time P.E. teacher 2 -3 days per week.
- We offer a setting designed specifically for children including a full-sized gym (with a 40-foot rock climbing wall) and a large natural playground space. Children are actively involved in our organic garden and care for our chickens and goats.
- Communication is a core value. We weave listening and spoken language development into every day. Our preschool provides many opportunities for open-ended discussion, critical thinking, problem solving and cognitive skills development, all with a focus on social and emotional learning.
- Children who are deaf and children with typical hearing are all part of a shared classroom community, learning from each other as well as their teachers. With years of experience, we have learned that this increases empathy and emotional intelligence in all our students.
- We offer Extended Care in the mornings (from 7:30 AM until class begins) and afternoons (from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM) on a monthly or hourly basis.
- Families also have access to free hearing, speech and vision screenings.
- We are a family-oriented school that was started by a group of parents in 1947. To this day, Tucker Maxon remains a community of families who offer each other support and encouragement.

## **More about our preschool program...**

We think Mr. Rogers said it best when he said “play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.” That is why we have chosen to incorporate principles of Creative Curriculum into our classes. Our classrooms, daily schedules, activities and materials all reflect an understanding of child development and an appreciation for each *individual* child and their unique needs. Our learning environment is designed to help children acquire the social and emotional intelligence and skills they need to succeed as creative, caring lifelong learners.

With the current trend of focusing on test scores, there is a danger that too much focus will be put on academics, while ignoring aspects of development that are equally, if not more, important for achieving positive and long lasting results with young children. Through their daily experiences, our children develop social and emotional intelligence, cognitive skills, physical fitness, communication, language and academics, preparing them for a successful transition to kindergarten.

With hands-on experiences and play, our teachers guide student interest and learning in a variety of areas including literacy, math, science, social studies, and the arts. There are daily opportunities for open-ended discussion, critical thinking, problem solving and cognitive skills development. On any given day you can peek into a classroom and see children who are taking apart a broken toaster, painting at an easel, playing a game with a friend, reading quietly in a book nook, building with blocks, “writing” a note at the writing table, looking out the window with binoculars and filling containers with water. What might look like “just play” is actually children being encouraged to experiment, explore and pursue their own interests. They do this by making choices, expressing themselves, taking risks, working independently, cooperating in groups, sharing their ideas, and taking responsibility for themselves.

Guest speakers and field trips are also an important part of learning. We invite guests into the classroom to share their knowledge with us as well as venture out into our community for new and enjoyable experiences. Field trips vary year to year, depending on the interests of the class and topics being explored.



## ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF or HARD OF HEARING

1. **Come visit our campus and meet with our staff.** Nothing replaces a visit to be able to understand who we are and what we do at Tucker Maxon School. Prospective students are required to visit. Please review the information in this packet and on our website, then call 503-235-6551 to schedule a visit by you, your child, and your family. Everyone is welcome!
2. **Apply for admission.** Once you have decided to apply for admission at Tucker Maxon, you need to submit an application and some additional information including:
  - An Intent to Enroll form and a \$100 registration fee. The registration fee will be refunded if admission is not offered. The registration fee will not be refunded if admission is offered.
  - Most recent audiogram and audiology reports
  - Most recent speech and language evaluation
  - Most recent IEP or IFSP, if applicable
  - Current statement of eligibility for special education, if applicable
  - Any other school or medical records that should be considered
  - A signed release of information for your child's prior school(s), audiologist(s), or other professional agencies
3. **Wait for admissions decision.** Our staff will review your child's application and you will receive a letter with our decision as quickly as possible. Please note that we need to meet your child and receive all requested records before we can offer admission. *For all new students, the first two weeks are a trial period to determine if the class and/or Tucker Maxon is the appropriate placement for your child.*
4. **Once accepted, keep an eye out for more information in the mail.**
  - In July, you will receive information about tuition payment options. Your initial tuition payment will confirm your enrollment. **Please note: financial aid awards are possible based on objective criteria, using your most recent tax returns, on a first-come, first-served basis.** Applications are available from the office and on our website. The financial aid process opens in February and decisions are usually made from March to May each year, so families can plan ahead.
  - In August, you will receive a registration packet with class assignments and other information on the upcoming year. The registration paperwork must be completed and returned to the school office by the first day of school. A completed Health, Emergency and Authorization form must be completed before your child may attend class.

**Thank you for choosing Tucker Maxon School!**

## **Audiology at Tucker Maxon School**

Tucker Maxon is fortunate to have a pediatric audiologist on-site: Shelby Atwill, AuD. Dr. Atwill started with TMS in 2014 and brought with her a wealth of pediatric and educational audiology experience.

**For all students with hearing loss, our on-site audiologist:**

- Prescribes, fits and tests your child's remote microphone and FM system (every year)
- Performs speech perception testing for your child's IFSP or IEP (every 6-12 months)
- Evaluates your child's unaided hearing (every 3-6 months until age 5, then every year)
- Provides minor troubleshooting and repair (as needed)
- Provides loaner hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant processor(s) (as needed)

These are considered "educational audiology" services, essential to your child getting the most out of their school day.

At Tucker Maxon, you also have the option of making Shelby your child's primary audiologist. All TMS audiology services are provided at no extra cost for current students, aside from equipment (which is offered at discount prices or billed to insurance).

**For students who select Shelby as their primary audiologist, she can:**

- Adjust or program your child's hearing aid (every 6-12 months, or as needed)
- Help select and fit new hearing aids (additional fee for hearing aids themselves) (as needed)
- Adjust or program your child's cochlear implant (every 6-12 months, or as needed)
- Program replacement/upgraded cochlear implant processors (as needed)
- Provide ear-mold impressions (additional fee for ear-molds themselves) (as needed)

**The benefits of having the TMS audiologist be your primary audiologist include:**

- *Improved quality of care* – Shelby only serves pediatric patients, 95% of whom are students or alumni of the school
- *Better coordination of care* – your child's audiologist, teachers and speech and language pathologist are under the same roof and always on the same page
- *No extra appointments* – your child's audiology care occurs during their regular school day (or during Extended Care, with prior arrangements)
- *Improved access to care* – you don't have to wait for an appointment when there's a problem. You don't miss work and your child won't miss school time
- *Availability during school breaks* – you don't have to worry about losing audiology coverage during the summer
- *Continued care* – audiology services can continue after your child graduates from TMS by appointment, and billed to insurance. You have the freedom to continue audiology care at TMS or transfer care to another audiologist at graduation.

## Speech and Language Pathology at Tucker Maxon School

Tucker Maxon offers on-site speech and language pathology services with Claire Leake, M.S. CCC-SLP for all students who are deaf and hard of hearing in the preschool and elementary programs. Claire consults with Tucker Maxon's Early Intervention providers for evaluation and treatment planning. Additionally as her caseload allows, Claire sees children with hearing loss who do not attend Tucker Maxon in our outpatient clinical program. Claire started with TMS in 2014 and brought with a solid background in interdisciplinary and family-centered care. Claire is currently pursuing her Listening and Spoken Language Certification.

For all students with hearing loss, our on-site speech and language pathologist:

- Completes annual or twice-annual comprehensive evaluations of your child's listening, speech, vocabulary, language, and conversational skills.
- Develops individualized goals for your child's IEP or IFSP.
- Provides one-on-one intervention services weekly.
- Communicates weekly with you regarding your child's progress.

The benefits of Tucker Maxon's speech and language pathology program include:

- *Family-centered*-Claire encourages caregivers to attend intervention sessions. She works with parents to understand their goals and priorities for their child and to teach them strategies for working with their child at home.
- *Individualized care*-Claire creates an individualized treatment program that makes sense for your child and your family. This might mean she sees your child once a week or three times a week. She may see your child individually or push in to the classroom.
- *Improved quality of care*-Caseload size is kept at a reasonable level to allow Claire adequate time to serve the children at Tucker Maxon.
- *Better coordination of care*-Claire collaborates with your child's classroom teacher, teacher of the deaf, and audiologist to provide the best possible care.
- *After school appointments*-Claire provides appointment times after school so that parents may attend sessions with their child.



## **Hearing and Deaf Children Learning Together**

Tucker Maxon's philosophy is that children who are deaf should learn and live life fully among their hearing peers. For this philosophy to be successful, learning together is a part of our program from our Early Intervention program through Elementary school. In every group educational setting in our program, children with hearing loss and those with typical hearing share classrooms, teachers, experiences, and friendships. In most classrooms, there are many more hearing students by approximately 2-1, so children who are deaf or hard of hearing are exposed to a typical mainstream learning environment. However, they also receive individual services from teachers of the deaf and our on-site audiologist and speech and language pathologist.

In our Early Intervention program for deaf children aged birth to three, we offer a once-a-week toddler group, in addition to individual sessions. This group will typically include four or five toddlers with and without hearing loss, and their parents. It is a fun hour for both children and adults. Families enjoy play, snacks, songs, stories, and casual conversation.

Tucker Maxon is one of the only schools in the nation that utilizes this integrated model for preschool and elementary school. With years of experience, we know that both children with and without hearing loss build skills, confidence, and emotional intelligence through this integrated approach.



## **Alexander Graham Bell Association**

### Principles of Listening and Spoken Language Education at Tucker Maxon

1. Promotes early diagnosis of hearing impairment in newborns, infants, toddlers and children followed by immediate audiologic management and early intervention (auditory-verbal) therapy.
2. Recommends immediate assessment and use of appropriate, state-of-the-art hearing technology and amplification to obtain maximum benefits of auditory stimulation.
3. Guides and coaches parents to help their child use hearing as the primary sensory modality in developing spoken language without the use of sign language or emphasis on lip reading.
4. Guides and coaches parents to become the primary facilitators of their child's listening and spoken language development through active consistent participation in individualized auditory-verbal therapy.
5. Creates environments that support listening for the acquisition of spoken language throughout the child's daily activities.
6. Guides and coaches parents to help their child integrate listening and spoken language into all aspects of their child's life.
7. Guides and coaches parents to use natural developmental patterns of audition, speech, language, cognition and communication.
8. Guides and coaches parents to help their child self-monitor spoken language through listening.
9. Administers ongoing formal and informal diagnostic assessments to develop individualized auditory-verbal treatment plans, to monitor progress and to evaluate the effectiveness of the plans for the child and family.
10. Promotes education in regular (mainstream) classrooms with typical hearing peers and with appropriate support services from early childhood onwards.



**INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN  
WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING  
2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR**

<b>Early Intervention</b>	<b>Preschool</b>	<b>Elementary (K-5)</b>
Individualized schedule	8:30 am-2:30 pm daily	8:15 am-2:45 pm daily
\$5,500/year (first 3 mos. free)	\$9,950/year	\$17,000/year

Tuition can be paid monthly through ACH (automatic payment) over 10 months. **Financial aid packages are available based on objective criteria on a first-come, first-served basis.** Applications are available in the school office or on our website. The process begins each year in February.

**Financial Aid for student that are deaf or hard of hearing**

- Applications are due the first business day after April 15<sup>th</sup> but welcomed sooner.
- Decisions are announced by April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Minimum tuition for all students receiving financial aid is \$150/month.

**Sibling Discount Program**

Families with a child who is deaf or hard of hearing that enroll siblings who have typical hearing will receive a 10% tuition discount on their additional children's tuition.

**Monthly and Annual Tuition Options**

Payment options include:

- Pay full annual tuition no later than September 1 by check and receive a 2% discount.
- Auto-pay tuition monthly through secure ACH set up no later than September 1 at no cost to you.
- Pay monthly by check or credit card by the 1st of each month with an added 3% admin fee.
- Late fees of \$30.00 apply after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

**Enrollment**

**Families new and returning** must submit an Intent to Enroll form and a non-refundable \$100 registration fee for each child. This fee reserves your child's place in their class and will not be applied to tuition. Information on back to school supply lists, book and insurance fees will be distributed by mail in July each year.

*For all new students, the first two weeks are a trial period to determine if the class and/or if Tucker Maxon is the appropriate placement for your child.*

### **Extended Care Program**

Our optional Extended Care program offers childcare before and after school for our students. Morning care starts at 7:30 am and runs until school begins. After school care begins at 2:30 pm and ends at 5:30 pm. For families with a regular schedule, our prepaid plans offer a discounted rate of less than \$7 per hour (mornings \$135/mo., afternoons \$400/mo., or both/full-day \$500/mo.) Extended Care is also available on an hourly basis as needed for \$9 per hour. Additional information will be included in the registration packet.

### **Referral Program**

If an enrolled family refers another family, the referring family will receive ***\$250 off of one month's tuition*** after the new student has attended for 30 days. The referred family must enroll and pay tuition.



INTENT TO ENROLL
2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR
NEW STUDENT

Please submit one form per child.

My signature below signifies my intent to enroll (Child's First & Last Name) in (Elementary grade or Preschool)

at Tucker Maxon School for the 2016-2017 school year. I am including a \$100 non-refundable registration fee to reserve a place for my child.

I understand that this is not a contract my family will be held to but it will help the school plan its budget and staffing for next year. My child's placement is not guaranteed until s/he has been accepted and tuition arrangements have been made. Tuition or ACH payment form is due no later than September 1, 2016. The first two weeks for all new students will be considered a trial period to determine if Tucker Maxon is the appropriate placement for my child.

Parent/Guardian (please print):

Street Address:

City: State: Zip:

Cell Phone: Home Phone:

E-mail:

Child's birth date: Current age:

Signature: Date:

Do you anticipate your child will be in TMS's Extended Care program (before or after school) YES NO (Elementary and Preschool students ONLY)

Tucker Maxon admits students on a rolling basis and classes fill up quickly. To reserve a space for your child, please return this form along with your \$100 registration fee to the school office as soon as possible.

Please note that the registration fee does not apply toward tuition.