

KIDS' korner

GOOD STUFF for the kids & grandkids

ski tips from — TOP KID INSTRUCTORS

We want our kids and grandkids to love skiing and riding as much as we do. So here's a few tips from the experts— kid instructors.

Talk about the trip long before you go and continue to talk about it more and more as the date approaches. They will get so excited.

— Mya Frantti, Deer Valley, Utah

Have the kids try on skis walk around in boots so the feeling is familiar.

— Mya Frantti, Deer Valley, Utah

Dress kids for comfort—layers are best. It can make things easier to remove clothing if they become warm, and layers keep them warm if it's cold outside Also put hand warmers in their pockets just in case. — Mary Flinn Ware, Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

Always protect kids' eyes with goggles or glasses and their skin with sunscreen. Higher elevations can make you learn this lesson the hard way. — Mary Flinn Ware, Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

Arrive early, preferably the day prior to get rentals if needed, to get tickets in hand and hopefully avoid lines during peak season. It is great to let your children know where they are going and what will take place throughout the day, to reassure them. — Mary Flinn Ware, Park City Mountain Resort, Utah



photo courtesy of Val Thorens

Some children will not do well in a group lesson and should be considered for private instruction. Most kids enjoy



photo courtesy of Grand Targhee

being around others their own age and ability. A good instructor will engage the group with social interaction as well as ski improvements and will end the day with excitement. — Dave Hartley, Steamboat, Colorado



photo courtesy of Vail Resorts

Kids learn differently than grown-ups. Most kids need to get the basic idea of what you want them to do, and then they need to go do it. Repetition with coaching is the prescription for children. They will learn by doing and not realize that they are getting taught something. — Dave Hartley, Steamboat, Colorado

Before you try and teach your child to ski, make sure you have solid skiing skills, so you can completely focus on them. And make learning a game, not just talk.

Games like pizza/French-fries and red light/green light are great.

— Mya Frantti, Deer Valley, Utah

Terrain and ability selection are critical. Ski where they can ski, not where you want to ski. — Mya Frantti, Deer Valley, UT

Pace yourself. Let them learn at their own speed. When they get tired, stop and have some hot chocolate, make a snow cone or build a snowman. Don't rush their time to explore and learn. — Mya Frantti, Deer Valley, Utah



photo courtesy of Big White

Have your child show you what they learned in their ski class. It's amazing how psyched a kid can become to show a parent their new trick, and likely the parent will be amazed.

— Dave Hartley, Steamboat, Colorado ■