

PROGRESS CARD TOOLKIT



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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the PSIA-AASI Progress Card toolkit. These materials are designed to support your children's lesson programs, creating a professional and consistent process for addressing a child's progress as they become the future of the sports we love.



WHY USE PROGRESS CARDS?

Ski and snowboard schools have an awesome opportunity to influence the next generation of resort guests. Progress cards are the connection between the lesson, the child, the instructor, and the parent. They provide inspiration and motivation for the student, show parents how wisely they invested their time and money and accountability for the instructor. In addition, progress cards can be a memento for families of their time with you, and a reminder to return.

When progress cards are used in daily programs, they help ski and snowboard schools more accurately place a child in the right group. Whether the child is a returning student at your resort, or they're bringing a progress card from another ski and ride school, this tool can help avoid challenging splits and discouraged kids who get placed in the wrong group. The cards also empower instructors to work with their peers to manage splits and move students through development stages. A consistently used progress card process will elevate the efficiencies of managing groups out on the hill for all ski and ride schools.

The progress cards give instructors helpful reminders of what to teach to and where to go with their students. They are very useful as an overview and reminders for best practices for part time instructors who aren't teaching on a regular basis.

At the end of the day, the cards help instructors have realistic discussions about the experiences and growth a child showed during their lesson, and where they can hope to go from here. Most importantly, instructors can easily share what skills were worked on or achieved to help parents determine where they can safely ski or ride with their child after the lesson.

Used properly, the outcome-based skills on the progress cards provide a roadmap to next steps and next terrain. This helps instructors provide concrete evidence of what skills are needed to progress to new terrain or levels of skiing and riding. This provides solid information to discuss with parents who may have bigger aspirations for their child than is currently warranted and ensures that there is consistency from instructor to instructor. For example, having all instructors agree that their students can't advance to the next level until all learning objectives have been mastered at the current level.



PROGRESS CARD LOGISTICS

Having a solid report card is just half of the equation. Make sure you take the time to work through the process with all departments at your resort or area, so everyone understands the report card process. The following are questions you should take into consideration when building out the report card process:

1) When are the progress cards handed out?

Is this something the sales points give to parents to give to the instructor, or are these completed when the student is dropped off at the lesson?

2) Where do the cards live during the lesson?

Some resorts use report cards as a helpful identification tool. For example, if the report card lives in a student's jacket pocket, then if a student is lost, patrollers, lift ops, and other employees know where to look to identify if they are with the ski and ride school.

3) When are report cards completed by instructors?

Providing suggestions of when the instructor should complete the report card throughout the day helps the instructor create a lesson plan and manage their time appropriately.

4) What is the checkout process at the end of the day?

Be sure to take the time to train instructors on the end of day checkout process so that families get feedback on their student and have a great guest experience. Reviewing the cards at the end of the day helps parents know the best runs to take with their kids to see improvements or know what lesson level to drop them off at the next day.



HOW TO USE PROGRESS CARDS

This template was designed with adaptability and scalability in mind. Each level lists skills and movements that must be mastered before moving to the next level. This structure ensures consistency across programs and instructors. These skills are outcome-based, meaning it should be objective and simple to tell whether a student can do the task or not.

THE CATEGORIES

We encourage you to keep the categories of “Working On” and “Mastered” so that students who are new to a skill are encouraged even when they are not at mastery level. This is important information to relay to parents and may spark conversations about development, gear fit, weather, etc. It also encourages instructors to welcome students back to continue their progress and aim for completion. Skiing and snowboarding are lifelong sports that require time and experience in different terrain and conditions for true development and progress. This simple method of documenting progress will help kids stay engaged and parents understand what is required.

Training your staff on using the progress cards is highly recommended to ensure they understand the skills and can demonstrate their knowledge adequately. This will develop a shared language and understanding on your team.



ADDITIONAL SKILLS

You will also see tasks that are for teaching risk awareness. These will help introduce safety skills experientially at each level. The goal is to create safety conscious skiers and riders on the slopes. These awareness skills are not meant to be exclusive, but to draw out the creativity of instructors as they see new and different opportunities to build this awareness in their students.

You may consider adding more skills at each level when lesson times are longer, instructors have more days with students, or if there are many return students in a lesson. The additional skills will help instructors develop key skills at each level.

HOW TO USE PROGRESS CARDS



UNDERSTANDING THE CARD LEVELS

While some of the progress cards are formatted to align with PSIA-AASI levels 1 – 9, you're welcome to use any levels for each age group and/or add your terrain-based zones. Sometimes, younger children may only need a progression for up to level 4 or 6. Also, you can add just a few levels on each progress card, or you can add all of them based on the levels you'd like to include. Sometimes including more levels will give the students (and/or their parents) an opportunity to plan ahead and see what their future achievements at each level would look like. Remember, these cards are totally customizable for your resort, ski/ride programs, and accessible terrain but in the interest of creating consistency among resorts, it may be helpful to have the elements at each level for age groups be consistent.

SKILLS ARE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

The skill lists on the progress cards span all age groups. While we understand that children should be grouped by ages for developmental purposes, we also recognize that the skill development outcomes are the same. Often children moving from younger age programs into the older stages are required to drop down a skill level. This can be discouraging and can contribute to kids not returning. This is why we have set the same standards across the board. However, we encourage you to create a different presentation for different ages (i.e. branded characters, logos, etc.). We encourage resorts to split their programs into 3-year-old, 4-6 year-old, 7-12 year-old, and teens.

ADDING RESORT-SPECIFIC TERRAIN

We encourage you to customize your cards by including direction based on terrain specific to your resort or area. You might want to include specific trails students can ski or ride. It will help create more understanding of a student's current skills and for inspiring growth in your students and instructors. It's also a handy way to try to keep the groups focused on the appropriate terrain for each level.



HOW TO USE PROGRESS CARDS

OTHER IDEAS FOR CUSTOMIZING YOUR CARDS

Some things you may want to consider in planning the use of your cards include:

- What size is appropriate for your team? 4x8 or 4x11 with a fold?
- Will you include 2 or 3 levels per card, or just one?
- How many total cards will you use in a season?
- Will you add space for instructor comments? Where?
- How will you add a space for the child's name, date, instructor?
- Should you add parent pick up information or cell phone numbers?
- Is this a place to record allergies or other important information?
- How will you deliver the progress cards? End of day each day? End of program that goes multiple days or weeks? This will inform where and how you store them, and what information goes on each card.
- Do you include suggested runs for each level to provide guidance to the instructor and parents on the best terrain for children to work on skill development?

