

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Edgie Wedgie

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Job Mighty Mites ski school supervisor.

Where Mount Hotham Alpine Resort.

Why is it important?

An Edgie Wedgie is used to connect kids' ski tips together to make an "elephant trap" [known to most as a snowplough stop]. Using it helps beginner skiers control speed and their stop. The tool is about 15 centimetres long and is made from strong rubber, with two plastic clasps on each end that attach to the tip of a set of skis. I teach three- to five-year-olds and this a fabulous tool because it helps them to start to snowplough easily. Although it is formally called an Edgie Wedgie, with kids we call it Hermie the wormie; that's easier for them to say. The kids love it because we introduce Hermie the wormie in a song; it's almost like they build a friendship with him [as they learn to ski]. It's also a big deal when they don't have to use it any more.

What do your colleagues think?

Edgie Wedgies have been around for years. The majority of instructors have and use them as a teaching aid for kids. Most love them as it improves the child's confidence. I also know a few instructors who use them on [beginner] adults.

Unusual moment?

There's a little girl I used to teach who has just turned six. When she has a [real-life] wedgie, she calls it an Edgie Wedgie!

How much does it cost?

They retail for about \$20.

SUE WHITE

