



PSIA-AASI National Adaptive Academy Extended Session

January 6-8, 2021

Clinic Reminders

Clinic Topic: People Skills Through an Adaptive Lens - Mike Ma michaelwma@gmail.com

1. People Skills are just a structure for Empathy.
2. There can be no empathy if you don't start with your own self-awareness. Understand your motives for teaching Adaptive and recognize the strengths and potential weaknesses of that story.
3. Balancing Inspiration vs. Ableism is difficult. Inspiration is good, but when you put your story at the center of the model, there is a tendency to veer toward ableism. Please work with your staff on this very delicate matter. (Here is the [blog we discussed](#))
4. Emotional Intelligence is a ladder up from Self-Awareness → Self-Management → Social Awareness → Relationship Management
5. Trust → Likeability → Expertise -- these are the People Skill building blocks to establish the student-teacher relationship.
6. The words that are required to elevate that relationship are often quite simple in words but expertly timed with context and empathy. Examples we discussed all had common traits of honesty, humility, and humor:
"I don't really know what we are going to do next here."
"Are you ready now?"
"I know how to do that."
"I got you."
"Now it's my turn to help you."
7. Communication must be specific to a student's profile and ideally blend Verbal, Non-Verbal, Active Listening.
8. Communication in Adaptive may be a "multi-player game" where you are interfacing with not only your student, but also the family/parents, a caregiver, and your co-teachers.
9. Build an Adaptive Hypothesis that combines solid fundamentals with accurate information about your student that gets continually refined.
10. There is no such thing as Adaptive teaching or Adaptive Skiing/Riding. Every lesson is adaptive. Good skiing is good skiing. Good riding is good riding.