



## Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular  
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### Clinic Summary Notes

**Clinic Topic:** Teaching is Fundamental  
**Ed Meltzer: Clinician**

As adaptive instructors, establishing trust with our students is a critical skill for the success of a lesson. Trust has many faces. Think about your cognitive students and their hierarchical needs. Think about our visually impaired students and how trust is crucial in guiding. Consider sit ski students who need to trust our skills when loading the chairlift.

Only when trust is established, can we expect to have a successful learning experience.

The following information is from PSIA's *Teaching Snowsports* manual available at <https://www.thesnowpros.org/education/digital-manuals-for-every-discipline/>

PEOPLE SKILLS (Teaching Snowsports manual, digital appendix)  
Fundamentals

- Develop relationships based on trust.
- Engage in meaningful, two-way communication.
- Identify, understand, and manage your emotions and actions.
- Recognize and influence the behaviors, motivations, and emotions of others.

TEACHING SKILLS With trust established using people skills, teaching skills strengthen the connection between the instructor and student. Teaching skills create an engaging environment in which to foster student learning. To maximize learning, instructors plan, implement, and adapt the learning experience, and give students an opportunity to reflect on their experiences.

Fundamental Mechanics (Teaching Snowsports manual, digital appendix)

- Collaborate on long-term goals and short-term objectives.
- Manage information, activities, terrain selection, and pacing.
- Promote play, experimentation, and exploration.
- Facilitate the learner's ability to reflect upon experiences and sensations.
- Adapt to the changing needs of the learner.
- Manage emotional and physical risk

The Teaching/Learning Cycle PSIA-AASI's Teaching/Learning Cycle identifies phases in which the instructor and students interact to create the learning experience.

These phases (which are covered in more detail in the Teaching Snowsports Manual, digital appendix) are:

- Welcome and Introduction

- Assess Students
- Determine Goals and Plan Experiences
- Create Experiences for Learning
- Guide Practice