



Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

**Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular
December 4-8, 2023**

Clinic Notes

Perfecting People Skills – Barbara Szwebel

Clinic Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023, 1:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Clinic Title: Perfecting People Skills

1. The Learning Connection is a framework for snowsports instruction that separates instruction into three domains: people skills, teaching skills, and technical skills. Please refer to the PSIA AASI Teaching Snowsports Manual for a more detailed view of each domain and how they create a learning partnership and connection between you and the student.
2. Check out the Teaching Snowsports Manual at PSIA AASI
<https://www.thesnowpros.org/education/digital-manuals-for-every-discipline/>
3. People skills represent the actions taken to connect me and you (or rider). They are applicable tools used to effectively relate to the student and be improved through practice and self-awareness. The principles that guide people skills within the learning partnership include:
 - Develop relationships based on trust.
 - Engage in meaningful, two-way communication (both verbal and non-speaking).
 - Identify, understand, and manage your emotions and actions.
 - Recognize and influence the behaviors, motivations, and emotions of others.
4. In adaptive instruction we rely heavily on people skills to create a successful experience for our students. That success may look quite different from a mainstream lesson. Success may include meeting new friends, trying a new activity or task, being able to stand a little longer, or just being outside. Like teaching mainstream lessons, instructor's development of people skills should continue to be a focus for improving adaptive instruction.
5. What people skills, assistive devices, or environmental modifications can I use to help the student learn best based on their emotional strengths? What communication methods and preferences create meaningful connections?
6. With the goal of adaptive lessons providing independence, one powerful tool that instructors, programs, and participants have is controlling the environment of a lesson. Setting up the right lesson structure can vastly change the success each student has and help build deep, meaningful connections.
7. Check out PSIA-AASI's Adaptive Alpine Technical Manual, Teaching Snowsports Manual, and the Adaptive Snowboard Technical Manual (release date Fall 2022).