



## Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular  
December 9 - 12, 2024

### Clinic Summary Notes

**Clinic Topic: Guided Play to Support Learning** – Mary Ellen Whitney

The two key principles of guided play are child autonomy and adult guidance:

- Child autonomy: Guided play gives children the agency to direct their own learning.
- Adult guidance: Adults provide gentle guidance to help children progress toward learning goal.

Guided play is a form of play-based learning that falls between free play and direct instruction. It's fun and engaging, but unlike free play, it focuses on a specific learning objective.

Here are some more characteristics of guided play:

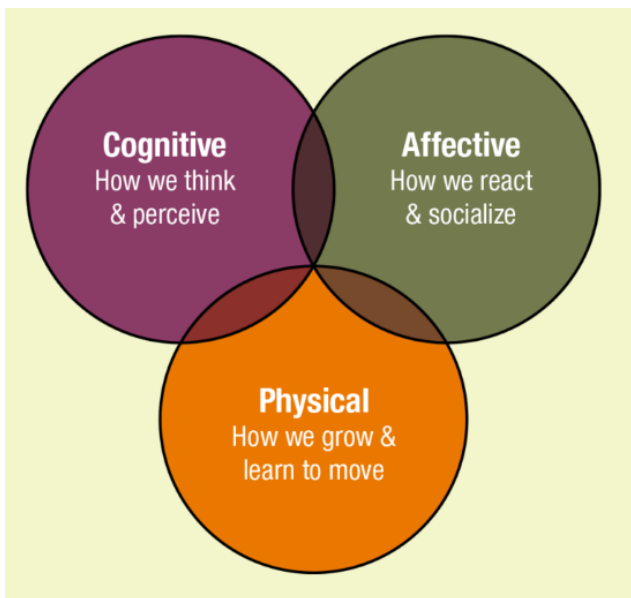
- Active collaboration
- Guided play views children as active collaborators in the learning process, not just recipients of information.
- Imagination
- Guided play allows children to be imaginative and express themselves without feeling pressured to be judged.
- Integrated learning
- Guided play can include concepts from multiple subjects, such as math, writing, and reading.
- Discovery of undemonstrated functions
- Guided play can help children discover functions that aren't explicitly demonstrated.

Fundamentally understand how the brain and body and emotions of children work for creating fun and engaging lessons that will delight kids of all ages.

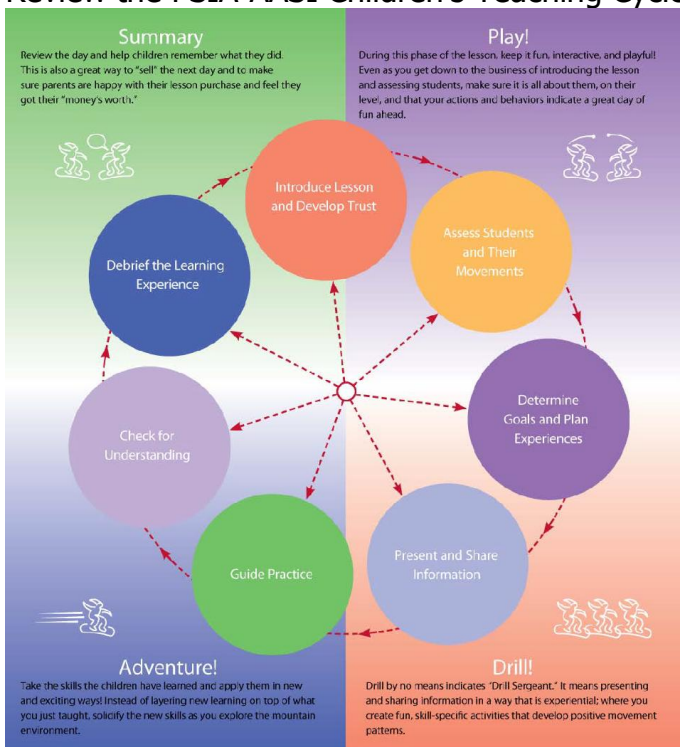
Review Piaget's Developmental Theory:  
**Piaget's Theory**

Stage	Age Range	Description
Sensorimotor	0-2 years	Coordination of senses with motor response, sensory curiosity about the world. Language used for demands and cataloguing. Object permanence developed
Preoperational	2-7 years	Symbolic thinking, use of proper syntax and grammar to express full concepts. Imagination and intuition are strong, but complex abstract thought still difficult. Conservation developed.
Concrete Operational	7-11 years	Concepts attached to concrete situations. Time, space, and quantity are understood and can be applied, but not as independent concepts
Formal Operations	11+	Theoretical, hypothetical, and counterfactual thinking. Abstract logic and reasoning. Strategy and planning become possible. Concepts learned in one context can be applied to another.

## Review PSIA-AASI's CAP model



## Review the PSIA-AASI Children's Teaching Cycle



5. Arm yourself with a list of games; flatland drills; and other sensory or visual 'toys' to grab for adapting to on-snow lessons. Be prepared for making every minute "Fun" with playful adaptations to lesson segments.

**Resources:** <https://thesnowpros.org/education/digital-manuals-for-every-discipline/>.

*PSIA/AASI Core Concepts Manual; PSIA Children's Ski and Snowboard Movement Guide; Children's Instruction Manual, 2nd ed.; Children's Alpine Teaching Handbook; Children's Ski and Snowboard Movement Guide; Captain Zembo's Ski & Snowboard Teaching Guide for Kids, 2nd ed.*