



## **Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy**

## Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular December 9-11, 2024

## **Clinic Summary Notes**

## **Clinic Topic: : Joy of Teaching Guests with Neurodevelopmental Diagnosis** Mary Ellen Whitney

- 1. A basic understanding of basic foundational information on numerous and various diagnosis of developmental/intellectual neurocognitive disabilities is needed for working in this population. Gain insight into how each diagnosis may have combinations of physical/intellectual/behavior approach in lesson planning.
- 2. Consider the wide range of symptoms, skills, and levels of disability in functioning that not only each diagnosis carries, but each individual within that diagnosis. Every lesson and every student will be different.
- 3. Conducting a thorough physical assessment to set goals and curriculum for the student will be necessary to ensure long and short-term success.
- 4. Often the chronological age and intellectual age of a student do not match. Understand best practices to appropriately engage students in this category to learn best without compromising dignity.
- 5. Relate evidence-based practices for teaching students with neurodevelopmental diagnoses who have behavioral component to the diagnosis, by application of 10 simple behavior management strategies.
- 6. What's in your Toolbox? Create a box of sensory prompts and visual aids: flash cards; toys; communicators to assist with any lesson that may need a prompt to get you through tough behavioral issues.
- 7. All Behavior is Communication Learn to recognize signs /triggers that your students exhibit and take fast action to remove the stimuli that may escalate to crisis.
- 8. Understand and review the teaching model; CAP model and steppingstones concepts in applicable scenarios for students with intellectual diagnoses to address safety, skill development and teaching methodologies that are applicable to different diagnosis.

**Resources:** PSIA /AASI Core Concepts for Snowsports Instructors; Watch: 'How much do you know about intellectual disabilities? Matthew Williams 'https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BURbLmQL1BE Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccIAqPjwKcY The Disability Conversation