



Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular
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Clinic Summary Notes

Clinic Topic: : Online: Neurodevelopmental Diagnoses - Foundational Information for Safe and Fun Lessons - 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. Common Traits: 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, but there may be similar traits to align for lesson planning.
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. Clinical vs. Learned behaviors: '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=cclAqPjwKcY> The Disability Conversation