



Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular

December 8-11, 2025

Clinic Summary Notes

Clinic Title: Smartphone Use as a Smart Lesson Tool – Scott Giffin

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1. There are a variety of tools and apps that can support student needs and enhance adaptive lesson success, many with free versions. Some examples are listed, but many more are available.
 - a. Augmentative and alternative communications (AAC)
 - Proloquo, SoundingBoard, Touchchat
 - Memo pad/Notes for written conversations
 - Create photo library for a communication board; lots of communication board icon apps in Apple store
 - Sign language instruction or interpretation (Apple apps) Hand Talk: ASL Sign Language
 - Create your own using apps like FreeForm
 - b. Visual schedules and life skills
 - Choiceworks, First Then Visual Schedule, Goally
 - PicCardMaker - Free
 - c. Text to Speech
 - Voice Dream Reader
 - d. Sensory Regulation—
 - Calm, Headspace, Smiling Mind, Magic Fluids Free, Nature sounds
 - Pocket Pond for relaxation and soothing water sounds when dragging finger across screen
 - Metronome for calming/de-escalation or ramping up/escalation. Drag finger to dial down or up speed of metronome to match feelings or create appropriate level of emotion/energy
 - e. Visual Deficits
 - Built in screen readers
 - Magnifier (zoom)
 - Text enlargement and color inverter (white on black)



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- Text to talk (speak selection)
- f. Memory Aids:
 - Contact info with photos to remember instructors and classmates
 - Voice notes recorder and/or memo pad to help remember processes
 - Photo file to remember processes, people, and equipment
- g. Movement Analysis
- h. Medical Information: iTriage, Medscape, WebMD
 - Medications, function, side effects
 - Diagnoses, symptoms
- i. Route Making/Distance/Time Incentives/Fitness
 - Strava,
 - Resort mileage and route apps
 - Map routes/goals for snowshoeing, Nordic, and alpine skiing, snowboarding or see what the participant has done and save it to reference next time and go farther or explore new trails
- j. Stories Online for Autism—for children with autism or sensory processing disorders to improve auditory processing by creating stories
- 2. Learn and accrue apps and resources from other instructors, be creative and curious.
- 3. Find apps with AI aided searches, websites dedicated to physical education and to adaptive education and resources.