



Ski Spectacular Instructor Academy

Hosted by The Hartford Ski Spectacular

December 8-11, 2025

Clinic Summary Notes

Clinic Title: Tips and Tools for Teaching Guests with Brain Injury

1. Basic foundational information on numerous and various diagnoses of developmental/intellectual disabilities is needed for working in this population. Gain insight into how each diagnosis may have combinations of physical/intellectual/behavioral approaches in lesson planning.
2. Consider the wide range of symptoms, skills, and levels of ability in functioning that each individual with a brain injury possesses. Every lesson and every guest will be different.
3. The CAP Model is a guideline for determining a person's ability and potential within a specific age group. With our adaptive guests, chronological age may be less relevant than in a neurotypical lesson. Appropriately engage guests without compromising dignity. Thoroughly assess each area of CAP to ensure success in your lessons. (Refer to PSIA's Children's Instruction Manual- 2nd Edition.)
 - Cognitive (how people think)
 - Affective (how people feel)
 - Physical (how people move)
4. **All Behavior is Communication** – Learn to recognize signs/triggers that your guests may exhibit, and take fast action to remove the stimuli that may escalate to crisis.
5. Apply behavior management strategies when teaching guests with a cognitive diagnosis who have a behavioral component involved. Ask caregivers and/or our guest which strategies seem to be most effective for them.
6. Understand and review the Learning Connection, Learning Partnership and Teaching/Learning Cycle to set yourself up for successful lessons. (refer to PSIA-AASI Teaching Snowsports Manual).
7. Do the best you can to make environments predictable. Prepare for, and communicate potential triggers for that guest- such as avalanche guns, loud noises, banging doors, crowded places.



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Resources:

1. TEDx Talk- 'A brain Injury is Like a Fingerprint, no two are alike' (Snowboarder Kevin Pearce): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZH7-r1Wy9o>
2. TEDx Talk- 'The Disability Conversation' (Ben Myers): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cclAqPjwKcY>
3. Living with a Brain Injury (2016 Stefan Hadfield)- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QZcNz5WDyY>
4. Resource for [brain injuries](#) (one of many)
5. TEDx Talk- '[I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much](#)' (Stella Young)
6. Resource for PTSD: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>
7. PSIA-AASI Education Materials: thesnowpros.org
 - a. PSIA-AASI Adaptive Alpine Manual
 - b. PSIA-AASI Adaptive Snowboard Manual
 - c. PSIA-AASI Teaching Snowsports Manual
 - d. PSIA-AASI Core Concepts for Snowsports Instructors
 - e. PSIA-AASI Children's Instruction Manual