2026/2027

Children's Specialist Curriculum Guide

Table of Contents

Children's Specialist Educational Events **4**
Children's Development Clinic 5
Children's Teaching Cycle 7
Beyond Words 8
Elevating Lessons with Props & Terrain 10
Skill Based Play 12
Teaching Various Abilities & Blending Tactics 13
Teaching Senior Adults 14
Children's Specialist Assessment Prep Events **15**
Children's Specialist 2 Prep 16
401 Children's Clinic Leading On Snow & Indoor 17
402 Children's Clinic Leading Online 19
Additional Resources and FAQs **21**

Introduction:

Supporting snowsports instructors in their professional development qualifies the skill sets outlined for great instruction outlined in the PSIA-AASI National Standards. These skill sets are grouped into the following assessment modules with Learning Outcomes defining attainable milestones in professional development.

- Teaching & People Skills
- Movement Analysis & Technical Understanding Skills
- Technical Performance Skills

At educational events, participants can expect a supportive, engaging environment focused on skill improvement, teaching methodology, and movement analysis. Educational events are designed to align with national standards, offering personalized feedback and hands-on experience to help instructors grow and succeed on their certification path.

Members must meet the minimum certification level required to participate in an event. For further questions or concerns, please contact the office at events@psia-rm.org or (970)-879-8335.

Materials and Equipment Needed for All Educational Events:

- Appropriate riding/ski gear to be on-snow in all weather
- Helmets are required

Children's Specialist Educational Events

Children's Development Clinic

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 2 Day (12 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow

Course Description:

This clinic is open to any member of any discipline looking for training in the development and teaching of children, ages 3-16 years. Two days will consist of in-depth training on children's development for all age ranges. On snow teaching practice and indoor movement analysis practice will be provided. The participants will have an opportunity to clearly understand the process of Children's Specialist assessments while increasing depth of knowledge and improving teaching skills.

Prerequisite Courses:

- None

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:

- comfortably ski/ride the mountain in most conditions
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:

- share and experience team work activities commonly used with children
- adapt continuous skill development exercises to different and specific age groups
- discuss and apply Maslow's Needs and other CAP Model concepts
- practice indoor video movement and technical analysis in the format used for Children's Specialist assessments

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:

- understand and apply the CAP Model with children learning snow sports

- understand and apply teaching skill development to 3-16 yr olds through creative teaching
- understand movement and technical analysis through a video interview
- understand expectations and standards of relevant Children's Specialist assessments

Materials Recommended:

- CS1 & CS2 Assessment Overviews, Assessment Forms, Workbooks
- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children's Snowsports Manual

Children's Teaching Cycle

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 1 Day (6 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow, Using all available terrain, Green to Black

Course Description:

Move beyond New Hire Training by learning how to use the Children's Teaching Cycle, also known as *Play, Drill, Adventure, Summary*, to add teaching tricks to your bag. Get to know students better and create fun and playful lessons with games, adventure, engaging drills, and practice time that develops skills before advancing to more challenging terrain.

Prerequisite Courses:

- None

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- ski/ride beginner and intermediate terrain
- reflect on past teaching experiences and students
- embrace an open mind towards using props and creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- learn one drill for each fundamental to develop skills on Green terrain
- experience model rapport-building games (i.e., name game, two truths and a lie, charades, etc.)
- connect elements of Play Drill and Adventure to the Teaching Cycle
- share drills for a fundamental and creatively adapt drills to be more playful
- discuss and experience how to see terrain as a playground
- develop student profiles and prescribe fun adventures for practice
- practice parent summaries for both the kids and parent

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:
- describe how Play, Drill, Adventure, Summary relates to the teaching cycle
- use games for "Play" that helps you get to know your students better
- create skill-based adventures for beginner and novice students

- Summarize learning experiences to parents, highlight terrain selection, and connect student goals with parent goals

Materials Recommended:

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children's Snowsports Manual

Beyond Words

Duration: 1 Day (6 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow, Using all available terrain, Green to Black

Course Description:

Improve your teaching skills and explore the hidden world of non-verbal communication in this one-day clinic designed to help master the art of communication. Groups will draw from personal experience and elements of the CAP model to expand tactics for reading and connecting with students. This clinic explores using tone, word choice, and body language to influence the learning environment at all levels of student ability and age. Learn how to develop your eyes and ears for communication in a way that enhances lessons for more effective learning.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Level 1 Certification

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- ski/ride the mountain in most conditions
- share with the group understanding and knowledge regarding the CAP model
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- improve teaching skills through experience, participation, and feedback
- gain a deeper understanding of two-way verbal and non-verbal communication
- enhance learning environments through the process of the clinic
- develop comfort in applying multiple communication tactics

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:
- Identify non-verbal communication through peer and public observation activities
- Understand how different sensory inputs impact psychomotor development and motor skill learning

- Utilize non-verbal communication to enhance demonstration, explanation, and feedback in a variety of skill applications
- Create and develop age-appropriate experiences for learning and skill enhancement

Materials Needed: None

Creative Teaching

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 1 Day (6 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow, Using all available terrain, Green to Black

Course Description:

Expand your bag of tactics and techniques with this one-day clinic that explores the creative process. Groups will draw from personal experience and elements of the CAP model to develop new approaches of teaching skills at all levels of student ability and age. This clinic explores using Spiderwebbing, Multiple Intelligences, and imaginative thinking to create tailored learning environments at all levels of student ability and age. Learn how to move beyond simple analogy, master teaching for transfer, and tap into the limitless world of synthesis.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Level 1 Certification

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- ski or ride the mountain in most conditions
- share with the group understanding and knowledge regarding the CAP model
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- share experiences of adaptive or tailored teaching that enhanced motor skill learning
- explore how to identify and understand Multiple Intelligences through peer observation
- experience how to create new approaches to teaching familiar skills through analogy, association, and synthesis
- experiment with creative exercises to enhance demonstration, explanation, and feedback in a variety of skill applications

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:
- demonstrate a deeper understanding of the creative process and synthesis
- enhance learning environments through the process of the clinic
- demonstrate added comfort in applying novel teaching tactics

- create and develop age-appropriate experiences for learning and skill enhancement.

Materials Recommended:

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children's Snowsports Manual

Elevating Lessons with Props & Terrain

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 1 Day (6 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow, Using all available terrain, Green to Black

Course Description:

This comprehensive course is designed for instructors seeking to innovate, engage their students, and elevate their instruction by incorporating instructional props and varied terrain into lessons. Learn how to utilize props to provide visual and tactile aids, facilitate muscle memory development, and simplify complex concepts. Discover the strategic advantages of teaching on diverse terrain, offering scenarios and progressive skill adaptation. Safety is paramount, and we'll equip you with the knowledge to address potential challenges while ensuring participant safety. Explore how to adapt instruction for diverse learners, from different age groups to varying physical conditions. By the end of this clinic, you'll possess the tools and confidence to create engaging and impactful lessons that empower your students to excel on the slopes.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Level 1 Certification

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- ski or ride the mountain in most conditions
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards using props and creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- explore using different props to enhance learning and discuss potential use in lessons
- create, share, compare, and evaluate prop-aided demonstration techniques and tactical cues
- explore, identify, and evaluate suitable spots for teaching specific skills through terrain scavenger hunt
- simulate skill progression by guiding each other using terrain features and visual props
- design, present, and receive feedback from peers on a brief lesson plan that integrates props/terrain

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:

- recognize the value of incorporating props and varied terrain to create engaging and effective lessons
- articulate the benefits of using props for visual and tactile learning enhancement
- demonstrate proficiency with instructional props and leverage terrain for skill development
- prioritize safety and adaptability

Materials Needed: Bring Several Random Objects

Skill Based Play

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 2 Day (12 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow, Using all available terrain, Green to Black

Course Description:

Improve your teaching skills and your own sense of play and adventure on the mountain in this two day clinic. Participants explore a deep application of the CAP Model to create activities, exercises, and experiences on snow to help students become more skillful skiers and riders. This clinic explores skills from the beginner through the advanced zone, and through a variety of student ages. Understand what play means to different learners and how to integrate the concept of play into lesson progressions.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Level 1 Certification

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- ski/ride the mountain in most conditions
- share understanding and knowledge with the group regarding the CAP Model
- embrace an open mind towards using props and creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- explore how to develop unique and creative skill-based activities
- experiment with playful exercises that enhance skill application in various terrain and conditions
- develop age-appropriate experiences for learning and skill enhancement
- establish accuracy in understanding skill based play

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:
- improve teaching skills through integration of play throughout a variety of skill level and abilities
- better engage students by applying an understanding of skill development to create learning activities

- demonstrate personal application of fundamental movements through the playful experience

Materials Recommended:

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children's Snowsports Manual

Teaching Various Abilities & Blending Tactics

Duration: 1 Day (6 CEUs) or 2 Days (12 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow

Course Description:

This 1- or 2-day clinic focuses on enhancing the instructors' success when working with students with different abilities in the same lesson. Commonly known as "*teaching a split*", skills from this course support that ability to teach Family Private Lessons. Participants will gain tools and creative concepts for working with students of different ages, ability levels and, possibly, different equipment.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Children's Specialist 1

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- ski/ride groomed green and blue runs
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- identify 3 of their own personal challenges in teaching splits or a family private
- develop one strategy to prioritize and manage the groups 3 largest challenges
- practice group communication to determine and prioritize goals
- use conversation and questioning to gain information specific to all participants
- practice realistic teaching scenarios and communicating with the group to set and prioritize goals
- using race courses, terrain parks, and natural terrain features to develop skills and group cohesion

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:
- Implement fun games to play that keep a group of different abilities and ages skiing or riding together
- use different terrain features on any given run as a resource for managing group dynamics

- develop goal statements for individuals in the group and prioritize individual goal statements into a group goal statement

Materials Recommended:

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children's Snowsports Manual

Teaching Senior Adults

Duration (2 days – 12 CEUs)

Learning Connection Highlight: People, Teaching and Technical Skills

Course Description: This two-day course provides instructors with effective strategies and practical applications for teaching adults undergoing the natural aging process – from beginner through intermediate levels. Based in the CAP model ideology, you will take a deep dive into considerations of low impact skiing, understanding movements with the aging process utilizing curated video examples and how to connect and create learning for this demographic.

Recommended Preparatory Learning or Prerequisites

- LI in any discipline is highly recommended, but not required

Prerequisite Course(s) and Skills: Participants must be able to ski or ride safely and consistently in beginner to intermediate terrain.

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will understand and apply the Senior Adult Profile and CAP Model for the Natural Aging Process.
- Participants will be able to demonstrate low impact skiing/riding.
- Participants will be able to demonstrate effective teaching strategies for senior students in beginner to intermediate zones.
- They will have a fundamental ability to perform MA on Senior Adults in the beginner to intermediate zone
- Participants will understand and apply senior-specific equipment considerations and their impact on safety and performance.

Learning Experiences

- Hands-on drills/activities to support low-impact skiing/riding
- Peer-to-peer practice teaching sessions
- Video-based movement analysis during lunch sessions

Materials/Equipment needed: Tuned equipment, helmet, appropriate protective equipment

Children's Specialist Assessment Prep Events

Children’s Specialist 2 Prep

Discipline: Children’s Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 1 Day (6 CEUs)
Setting: On-Snow

Course Description:

This multi-discipline course is designed for Children's Specialist 2 candidates seeking to enhance understanding and application of CAP Model Concepts in preparation for a CS2 assessment. This course is not required to participate in the CS2 assessment and be attended more than once. An overview of the PSIA-AASI CS2 process and the National Standards will be reviewed through exercises and activities. Course leaders provide examples of each CS2 module and opportunities for candidates to practice and receive performance feedback.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Current Level 2 Certification (Alpine, Snowboard, or Telemark)
- Children's Specialist 1
- Registered for CS2
- Recommended Completion of CS2 Workbook

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:
- comfortably ski/ride the mountain in most conditions
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:
- explore and experience assessment activities used for the CS2 assessment
- review CAP Model concepts and highlight their application a learning environment
- have opportunities to demonstrate skill application and receive performance feedback

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:
- better understand candidate expectations of the CS2 process
- demonstrate how CAP Model concepts are applied to Teaching, People, and Technical Skills in learning environments

Materials Recommended:

- Teaching Children Snowsports Manual, 2021
- PSIA-AASI Children's Instruction Manual

401 Children's Clinic Leading On Snow & Indoor

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: 2 Day (12 CEUs)
Setting: Indoors & On-Snow, Using all available terrain, Green to Black

Course Description:

This two-day course is designed to introduce and overview, through exercises and activities, skills required to become an RM Children's Trainer in both indoor and outdoor settings. Day one takes place on snow and explores assessing participant knowledge, on snow clinic leading, and technical knowledge development. Clinic leading and presentations focus on experiential learning using creative, movement-based learning activities and experiences to share knowledge. Insight into Children's educational clinics and assessments equip participants to better prepare CS candidates. Day two focuses on an indoor skill set needed to successfully train multilevel and multi discipline groups of CS candidates. Participants practice objective building, creating outlines, delivering indoor clinics, movement / technical analysis, using presentation tools / props, and using assessment tools, such as the Performance Guide and National Standards, for clinic design and strategy implementation strategies at different levels of understanding.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Level 3 Certification (Alpine, Snowboard, or Telemark)
- Children's Specialist 2
- RMT Workbook Completed (Recommended)

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:

- ski/ride the mountain in most conditions
- share with the group understanding and knowledge regarding the CAP model
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:

- observe and evaluate a short children's clinic led by the facilitator
- demonstrate a CS1 or CS2 teaching scenario and evaluate using Performance Guide or Standards
- lead an on snow clinic on a CAP Model concept and receive performance feedback
- practice leading a movement and technical analysis learning experience
- create objectives for learning and build clinic outlines

- define objectives, outcomes, and how we use them to design an effective clinic
- practice identifying, verifying, and enhancing components of the CAP Model and increasing different levels of candidates' knowledge in an indoor environment

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:

- lead on snow children's clinics, demonstrate experiential clinic leading, and demonstrate accurate technical information
- demonstrate active and creative movement and technical analysis coaching
- create objectives using the ABCDE format and demonstrate understanding of objective-based training

Materials Recommended:

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children Snowsports (2021)
- PSIA-AASI Children's Instruction Manual, 2nd Edition (2008)
- PSIA-AASI Teaching Snowsports Manual (2018)
- Handouts and/or Props

All Education Materials including:

- Children's Specialist Assessment Forms
- Children's Specialist National Certification Standards
- Children's Specialist Performance Guide
- Movement & Technical Analysis Assessment Worksheet (2024)
- CS Clinic Outlines
- Legacy Movement Analysis Practice Sheet
- Legacy CS2 Goal Worksheet

402 Children's Clinic Leading Online

Discipline: Children's Specialist (Multi-Discipline)
Duration: Three 2-Hours Sessions over Three Weeks (6 CEUs)
Setting: ZOOM

Course Description:

This 6.0 hour ZOOM course, held over three evenings within a three week period, is designed to introduce and overview, through exercise and activities, skills essential for leading children's-focused clinics in a virtual environment. Multi-discipline groups participate in objective building, online clinic leading, and the development of technical facilitation skills. Learning experiences focus on tool use in the learning environment, how experiential learning changes in this setting, and applying creativity to learning activities and experiences that expand knowledge.

Prerequisite Courses:

- Level 3 Certification (Alpine, Snowboard, or Telemark)
- Children's Specialist 2
- RMT Workbook Completed (Recommended)

Knowledge & Experience Expectations:

Participants are able to:

- access ZOOM with a working camera and microphone
- access presentation software such as PowerPoint, Keynote, or Google Slide
- share with the group understanding and knowledge regarding the CAP model
- reflect upon past teaching and learning experiences
- embrace an open mind towards creativity

Course Objectives:

Participants will:

- observe and evaluate a short children's clinic led by the facilitator
- lead a virtual clinic on a CAP Model concept and receive performance feedback
- practice leading a movement and technical analysis learning experience
- create objectives for learning and build clinic outlines
- define objectives, outcomes, and how we use them to design an effective clinic
- practice identifying, verifying, and enhancing components of the CAP Model and increasing different levels of candidates' knowledge in an indoor environment

Potential Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this clinic, successful participants will be able to:

- create objectives using the ABCDE format and demonstrate understanding of objective-based training
- deliver a children's clinic in a ZOOM environment using experiential clinic leading
- identify, verify, and enhance participant knowledge of CAP Mode concepts
- demonstrate active and creative movement and technical analysis coaching

Materials Recommended:

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children Snowsports (2021)
- PSIA-AASI Children's Instruction Manual, 2nd Edition (2008)
- PSIA-AASI Teaching Snowsports Manual (2018)
- Handouts and/or Props

All Education Materials including:

- Children's Specialist Assessment Forms
- Children's Specialist National Certification Standards
- Children's Specialist Performance Guide
- Movement & Technical Analysis Assessment Worksheet (2024)
- CS Clinic Outlines
- Legacy Movement Analysis Practice Sheet
- Legacy CS2 Goal Worksheet

Additional Resources and FAQs

How to Register for an Event?

There are a few ways to register. You can register online through the Rocky Mountain website under the ‘Events” tab, or you can download an application form from the “Events” tab and email it to events@psia-rm.org. We do not accept phone registrations as you need to sign the waiver for the event and cannot complete that over the phone.

If online registration is closed, can I still register for an event?

Yes, you can still register for an event after online registration is closed, please download a form fillable PDF Event application from the “Events” tab and email it to events@psia-rm.org.

Resources:

The event calendar is available at: http://www.psia-rm.org

View the event cancellation policy on the PSIA-RM website

View the waitlist policy on the PSIA-RM website

View the CEU education requirement policy on the PSIA-RM website

For additional questions or concerns, please email events@psia-rm.org