



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Professional Ski Instructors of America

American Association of Snowboard Instructors

Children's Specialist 1 Assessment Overview

Introduction

This document outlines the Daily Schedule for the Assessment, details about the Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria, and Sample Assessment Activities.

This two-day event is PSIA-AASI's entry-level assessment for instructors who specialize in working with children. The CS1 assessment includes an online e-learning portion, an optional study guide, on snow teaching scenarios, video Movement Analysis, and technical discussions regarding how children and young students learn and progress from the Beginner/Novice into the Intermediate Zone.

Assessment of those taking the CS1 reflects the participants' knowledge of teaching to the development stages of children. Successful completion of the assessment grants professional recognition to an instructor for their education, experience, and expertise in teaching snowsports to children. This is a multi-discipline event with the likelihood of mixed groups (alpine, snowboard and telemark participants). Participants whose performance demonstrates knowledge and appropriate application at or above the National Standard will receive a Children's Specialist 1 certificate to recognize their expertise.

CS1 assesses candidate knowledge, comprehension, and application of materials throughout the two-day event. Active participation is essential for both days and candidate performance for both days is documented on one final assessment form. If a candidate is unsuccessful at attaining CS1, both days will need to be taken again.

Prerequisites:

- PSIA-AASI Level 1 Certified or foreign equivalent.
- The CS1 E-Learning Module must be successfully completed prior to the event.
- While the Teaching Log is a valuable tool for your preparation, Rocky Mountain does not require you to turn in a completed log at the event.

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Learning Outcomes & Assessment Criteria

Please reference the Children's Performance Guide prior to attending the event. The information below is a brief overview of the performance guide. A successful CS1 candidate must achieve the following Learning Outcomes to pass the CS1 Assessment.

PEOPLE SKILLS

Communication

A CS1 Instructor engages in developmentally appropriate communication to address the needs of a group of children and their parents.

Behavioral Management/Relationships with Others

A CS1 Instructor addresses intrapersonal and interpersonal situations with children and their parents in a developmentally appropriate manner.

TEACHING SKILLS

Assesses & Plans (Teaching Competency)

A CS1 Instructor uses provided information about children and parents to plan relevant learning experiences through the intermediate zone.

Implement & Reflect/Review (Delivery Experience)

A CS1 Instructor delivers group-focused learning experiences that have developmentally realistic outcomes.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Technical Competency

A CS1 Instructor identifies and describes distinct stages of cognitive, affective, and physical growth, including psychomotor development, for a group of children, relative to snowsports, through the intermediate zone.

Movement Analysis

A CS1 Instructor identifies and describes cause and effect relationships influenced by child growth, stages of psychomotor development and equipment options and prescribes a solution for a single fundamental in a group setting through the intermediate zone.

INSTRUCTOR DECISIONS & BEHAVIOR

Professionalism & Self-Management

A CS1 Instructor maintains a professional environment by demonstrating self-awareness and self-management.



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Candidates' teaching knowledge and experience will be evaluated based on peer-to-peer teaching presentations and conversations with the assessors. Successful candidates will clearly demonstrate their experience teaching children at the beginner/novice and intermediate levels with effective and accurate knowledge of progressions, appropriate to stages of development. Candidates will demonstrate the use and understanding of teaching, people, and technical skills when leading the group or referring to past lessons and will demonstrate appropriate class management and safety awareness.

Detailed information about Learning Outcomes, including Assessment Criteria and examples of successful performance, are available on Rocky Mountain's website at [Education > Children's Specialist > Education Materials](#).

Assessment Groups

The Rocky Mountain Office and Assessment Manager will lead a scheduled Assessor meeting to determine group assignments, terrain, and meeting locations for the event. Each group will have a maximum of 9 Candidates and one Assessor. Groups may include an assigned auditor. The Assessment Manager pre-assigns all groups and verifies any changes.

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Daily Schedule of Assessment Activities

Professionalism & Self-Management will be assessed from the beginning of the day at check-in through the entire event. Interactions with assessors, other candidates, resort employees, and resort guests are all reflective of the candidate's performance. This observation period includes time set aside for follow-up questions or interviews with assessors after observed interactions with others.

Day 1

The time schedule below is a guide and may be adjusted at the event.

Check In (8:00 – 8:30 AM)

- Sign in and receive a lift ticket if needed.
- Introduce Assessors and announce groups.
- Assessor previews the two days.

On-Snow Assessment Activities

(participant activities in full or small groups)

Individual assessment in a group setting requires participation from each candidate – please be sure to contribute to conversations so that the Assessor can evaluate your knowledge!

- Active conversation and activities about the stages of development with individual focus on the Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor realms.
- Candidates will have the opportunity to share their knowledge of stages of development and how it's used in their lessons.
- Activities to demonstrate body movements in different stages of physical development.
- Discuss how movement patterns change with age, specifically younger to older children.

Movement & Technical Analysis

15-Minute Individual Assessment

Candidates will watch a video of one student, share psychomotor, cognitive, affective, and equipment observations, evaluate the student's needs, and prescribe changes focused on alpine/snowboard fundamentals.

The video may be viewed only once and may be paused to take notes. Headphones will be provided, and candidates may bring their own headphones. As candidates watch the video, they are encouraged to write down observations on a movement analysis worksheet or scrap sheet of paper.

Candidates will be asked about how their prescription would vary for a child of a different age. Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge, not their presentation. No demonstration of the Movement & Technical Analysis activity will be provided at the event.



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Daily Schedule of Assessment Activities

Day 2

The time schedule below is a guide and may be adjusted at the event.

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Check In

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Assessor leads a creative warm up.

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Assessor gives a demonstration of a CS1 teaching scenario, and simulated conversation with parent and child that includes a goal statement.

10:00 AM

Assessor distributes individual teaching assignments. Candidates will have 30 minutes to collaborate in small groups, share ideas, help build goal statements, and plan for their individual lesson.

Candidates are allowed to bring with them to the event handbooks, notes, and reference materials to assist in preparing their teaching scenario. Although not required, props may also be used in teaching.

Teaching Scenarios are to be delivered in three segments:

- Conversation with Parent & Child that includes a Goal Statement
- Reading of Assigned Scenario
- Teaching a Group of 2 - 4 Students

10:45 – 2:00 PM

Candidates have 15 minutes each to deliver their individual lessons. Candidates who are not teaching or part of the lesson may be asked to actively observe the learning environment and share observations with the group.

There will be a brief break during this timeframe.

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Time for assessors to tabulate results and work on assessment forms. This time is available for candidates to eat, rest, and enjoy some personal time.

4:00 PM

Results presented to the group.



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Reference Materials

PRINTED REFERENCE MATERIALS

- PSIA-AASI Teaching Children Snowsports Manual (2021)
- PSIA-AASI Children's Instruction Manual, 2nd Edition (2008)
- PSIA-AASI Teaching Snowsports Manual (2018)

REFERENCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON PSIA-RM.ORG

- Study Guide
- Assessment Form
- Teaching Scenarios
- Children's Movement Patterns – Real & Ideal
- Movement Analysis Practice Sheet
- Goal Worksheet
- National Certification Standards
- CS1 & CS2 Rubric
- Performance Guide
- CS1 Teaching Log
- Magic Wand(s)