Child Development Associate
Question 1

Which of the following is the most widely recognized credential in Early Childhood Education?

- [ ] CDA
- [ ] NAEYC
- [ ] NAFCC
- [ ] NHSA

Correct Answer:

**CDA** - The most widely recognized credential in Early Childhood Education is The Child Development Associate Credential which is administered by the Council for Professional Recognition. The credential represents a core set of competency standards which must be met for certification. The NAEYC is the National Association for the Education of Young Children. NHSA is the National Head Start Association. NAFCC is the National Association for Family Child Care.
Question 2

Which of the following is an effective way for you to communicate with the parents of your students:

I. Call the parents every day
II. Send home a newsletter
III. Have a ‘mailbox’ for each child in your classroom
IV. Invite them in and share news at pick up time one day a week.

Correct Answer:
II, III and IV - Calling the parents every day would be a huge time commitment and would most likely prove to be frustrating for both sides, however, there are easy ways to build a relationship with your families and communicate with them effectively. Sending home a weekly or monthly newsletter, have "mailboxes" for each child in your room and inviting parents in for a quick chat one day a week are all ways you can share information with them easily and open the lines of communication. You will find by sharing classroom news, birthdays, field trips, special visitors or asking for volunteers for special activities, you will interact more easily and efficiently with your students' families and they will be more likely to be involved in positive ways.
Question 3

When planning a curriculum for 3 year olds, it’s important to remember:

- The children must all be sitting at the table in order to learn.
- Children learn in different ways and at their own pace, plan a variety of activities.
- If a child does not want to participate, he is not ready for school and should wait another year.
- Children need to do activities quietly so as not to disturb each other.

Correct Answer:

Children learn in different ways and at their own pace, plan a variety of activities. Children - and adults - learn at their own pace and in a variety of ways. Giving children a variety of activities with lots of opportunity for hands on, active and interactive learning will allow every child a way to process the information in a manner in which they are most comfortable.
**Question 4**

A well like teacher in your center is fired. Some of the students in your class had this teacher last year and the parents are asking you what happened.

You should:

- Remind them that gossiping is unacceptable.
- Tell them why the teacher was fired, you can’t believe it either!
- Tell them you will let the center director know of their concerns and she will be in contact with them.
- Tell them you will call them later, you don’t want to talk about it in front of the students.

**Correct Answer:**

Tell them you will let the center director know of their concerns and she will be in contact with them. - Confidentiality does not apply only to students, but to all staff and the center itself. While it may seem harmless to share details of situations that arise, it’s important to remember you must remain professional at all time and allow your center director to appropriately share information, as needed.
Question 5

You plan a cooking activity called Ants on a Log. The children will make cover celery with cream cheese and add raisin "ants". You want to be sure you incorporate small motor opportunities in to this activity. What can you do?

- Recreate the recipe on 3x5 cards so all the children can follow the steps.
- Give the children a chance to count out and add the ants to the logs.
- Have the children pretend to be ants on a log on the balance beam.
- Have the children set the table for snack.

Correct Answer:

Give the children a chance to count out and add the ants to the logs. - When you are preparing lessons for the children, you can add small motor opportunities by having kids stir, sort, count out, and put things together. When adding ants to the logs, they can sort, count out and pick up small pieces using their pincer grip.
Question 6

Using a warm voice, smiling often and being kind and patient with the children will:

- [ ] Keep the children from misbehaving.
- [x] Create a nurturing relationship with the children.
- [ ] Show your center director you are a good employee.
- [ ] Make the parents like you.

**Correct Answer:**

Create a nurturing relationship with the children. - Your most important role each day is to create a loving warm environment for your students. Be a caregiver that gives appropriate hugs, smiles at them often, cares about their successes, support them when they are sad and do whatever you can to assure they feel safe and secure while in your care.
Question 7

Alisa comes to preschool every day and shares details from TV programs which you think are inappropriate for the other students to hear. You ask her what time she goes to bed and she says that she usually just falls asleep on the couch while watching TV. You have noticed that she is sleepy while the other students are still active. You want to discuss these issues with her parents at the next conference. Which of the following would be best practice?

- Create a list of approved videos which the parents might invest in for the future. Give this list to all of the parents at the conference time.
- Tell the parents that the shows they are letting Alisa watch are inappropriate for children her age and that she must stop talking about them at school. Tell them that too much screen time is detrimental to development.
- Give the parents some books and activities which they can do with Alisa at home instead of watching TV. Tell them to limit her viewing and to put her to bed by 8:00 every night.
- Ask the parents about Alisa's sleep practices and TV habits. Discuss age-appropriate sleep needs and TV-viewing with them.

Correct Answer:

Ask the parents about Alisa's sleep practices and TV habits. Discuss age-appropriate sleep needs and TV-viewing with them. It is never a good idea to confront parents. This might put them in a defensive mode of listening. It is best to ask the parents about Alisa's habits and offer some research-based information which will help them make more appropriate choices for Alisa. Some parents have difficulty with consistency and discernment. Sending home lists may not be enough and would not help with the sleep issue. Care-givers should make suggestions which will help children succeed in school.
Question 8

Your first aid kit should be:

- in the director’s office
- out of reach from children but easily accessible to adults
- on your desk
- in the bathroom

Correct Answer:

out of reach from children but easily accessible to adults - Every preschool center should have at least one, if not more, first aid kits. Those kits should be fully stocked and kept out of reach of the students, however, should be in locations that are easily accessible for the teachers and other staff. Everyone should be aware where each of the kits is located.
Question 9

Zoe, a four year old girl in your class, has recently begun acting aggressive toward other children. Biting, kicking and hitting have become daily occurrences. This is not like her and you are concerned.

What should you do?

- Have her sit out for 20 minutes each time she acts out. She will get the idea it's not ok to hurt her friends.
- Have the child she bites bite her back. This will help her to see biting hurts and we should not bite.
- Keep her in for recess. Once she realizes she can't go outside, she will behave. She loves recess.
- Contact Zoe's parents to see if there has been a recent change in Zoe's life. A home situation could be causing this recent change in her behavior.

Correct Answer:

Contact Zoe's parents to see if there has been a recent change in Zoe's life. A home situation could be causing this recent change in her behavior. If you see a distinct change in a child's behavior, there is often a reason for this change. Children cannot always easily express their feelings and can hit, bite, kick, cry or even sleep more often when they are scared, frustrated, hurt or anxious. When you see these changes in behavior, follow your school's rules on correcting the behavior, keep anecdotal records and work with the child's family to address any issues the child may be having. Your job is not to fix the problem at home but more to support the child while she is under your care.
Question 10

In a full day program schedule, there should be AT LEAST how many minutes of Center/Free Choice time per day?

- 45 minutes in morning and afternoon.
- 75 minutes daily.
- 60 minutes in morning and afternoon.
- 2 hours daily.

Correct Answer:

60 minutes in morning and afternoon. - You must include 60 minutes of center/free choice time in both the morning and afternoon portions of your schedule. In a half day program, you should allow for 75 minutes per day.
Question 11

Maria tells you her family will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. She is very excited about this upcoming party. You could:

☐ Tell her it sounds really fun!
☐ Have a Cinco de Mayo celebration in your classroom. Ask Maria’s family if they want to help plan it.
☐ Read a book about Cinco de Mayo.
☐ Read a book about Mexico.

**Correct Answer:**

*Have a Cinco de Mayo celebration in your classroom. Ask Maria’s family if they want to help plan it.* - When a student has a special event - such as a holiday - you can foster a sense of community and cultural awareness by extending that learning to your classroom. Ask the child if she would like to bring in pictures of the event, share a special food or costume or if she would like to share information with her classmates.
Question 12

At the end of the day, a woman you've never met comes to your classroom to pick up Madelyn. Though you do not know her, Madelyn is very happy to see her and runs up for a hug. The woman is not on the contact list but states she is Madelyn's aunt and is there because the child's mother is running late.

You should:

- Since it is clear the child knows this adult you should allow Madelyn to leave with her.
- Ask the woman to wait while you contact Madelyn's mother to confirm it's ok for the child to leave with this adult.
- Tell the woman she must leave immediately.
- Call the police.

Correct Answer:

Ask the woman to wait while you contact Madelyn's mother to confirm it's ok for the child to leave with this adult. Parents should be required to provide the names and phone numbers of any adult authorized to pick up their child. In addition to this, as an added safety precaution, the parents should send in a note advising school staff when the normal dismissal routine will not be followed.

If an unauthorized adult arrives to pick up a child or an authorized adult shows up but was not expected, you must confirm with the parent that they grant permission, even if the child clearly knows that adult.
Question 13

You center receives a large donation of toys from a local church. You and your coworker are asked to go through the toys and divide them between each of the three preschool classrooms.

The first thing you and your coworker should do is:

☐ Count the toys so you can divide them evenly.
☐ Ask each teacher what they need for their room and do your best to divide the toys according to their requests.
☐ Go through them carefully and remove any that have small pieces that could be swallowed.
☐ Have the children make a THANK YOU card.

Correct Answer:

Go through them carefully and remove any that have small pieces that could be swallowed. It is easy to get excited when you receive gifts for the center, however, it is important to remember you are responsible for the safety of the children in your care. Organizations can mean well, but are not always as informed as you are on what is age appropriate or safe for small children. Toys that have small pieces can be a choking hazard and should not be in your preschool classroom.
Question 14

There is an outbreak of head lice in your classroom and you send home a notice to the parents to let them know what to look for and how to avoid contamination. An angry mom approaches you the next day because she feels a certain child is responsible for this outbreak. There are a few cases and you are not sure who had it first.

What should you tell her?

☐ Tell her who has it currently so she can tell her child to stay away from them.

☐ Let her know you appreciate her concerns, however it would be unfair to the children to share that information with anyone but their parents. Assure her you are following all protocols in your classroom to avoid further outbreaks and are monitoring the situation closely.

☐ Let her know her question is rude and that you would not share that information with her or anyone.

☐ Tell the other child's mother what this mother is saying. She should know this woman is starting rumors about her family.

Correct Answer:

Let her know you appreciate her concerns, however it would be unfair to the children to share that information with anyone but their parents. Assure her you are following all protocols in your classroom to avoid further outbreaks and are monitoring the situation closely. It is important to respect the privacy of the children and their families, no matter what the issue. While your classroom parents have a right to be concerned when there are outbreaks of lice or other situations, building a relationship with them will help them to trust that you will provide them with the information they need and, at the same time, respect the privacy of all your families.
Question 15

Where is the best place to place books in your room when you are planning your classroom?

- On bookshelves.
- In each learning center.
- In the block area.
- All the above.

Correct Answer:

All the above. - Young children should be exposed to books as often as possible. They should be read to often and books should be in each area of their classrooms. Have a reading center, books in each of your learning centers - even the block center and be sure to read to them as often as you can.
The children are really enjoying the science experiment you are doing with them but, according to your schedule, it’s time to clean up and read a book. Which of the following is your best action?

- Keep to the schedule, it’s time to clean up and read a book.
- Be flexible and allow them to further explore with you.
- Tell the children you’ll do this again next week.
- Write yourself a note in your planner to present this again next month.

**Correct Answer:**

**Be flexible and allow them to further explore with you.** - While all the responses could be correct, this choice allows you to be flexible and be immediately responsive to their curiosity. This is the response that is in their best interest for this scenario. Having the activity again later is a great idea, too, and you should reintroduce activities and materials they especially like, but always be responsive, when you can reasonably do so, to their immediate interests. In this case, you could forgo reading a book to allow them to further explore. You can read the book later or not at all.
Question 17

You want to encourage children to play together, what can you do to facilitate this?

- During center time, assign children to groups to play together. Give each group a toy. The children will then play together with that toy.
- During centers, have a few tables with manipulatives that encourage more than one child to play at a time.
- There is nothing you can do, children will either play together or they won’t. They don’t need to be encouraged.
- If a child is not playing with another child, gently take him by the hand and walk him over to another child and tell him to play.

**Correct Answer:**

During centers, have a few tables with manipulatives that encourage more than one child to play at a time. Some children are more social than others. It is ok for children to play by themselves or in groups, however, you can help children learn to play with others by using materials that encourage group play. Manipulatives, games and dramatic play can encourage children to socialize.
Question 18

Which of the below examples will help students begin to understand subject-specific vocabulary?

- Please sit in between Michael and Steven.
- You are five years old.
- I have an old dog.
- Today is Monday.

Correct Answer:

**Please sit in between Michael and Steven.** - The use of the phrase “in between” is what makes this a subject-specific statement. Add concepts to your phrases such as: more than, less than, over, under, in between to help students begin to develop this skill.
Question 19

You teach the children a new dance. You put the music on and the children start to do the dance you have shown them, but some of them are adding their own movements to the dance. You should:

- Make them sit out if they are not going to cooperate.
- Remind them to do the dance you taught them.
- Tell them you love their dance moves and encourage everyone to try to make up their own moves.
- Stop the music and tell them you will try again when everyone is ready to do it correctly.

Correct Answer:

Tell them you love their dance moves and encourage everyone to try to make up their own moves. When you allow children to create and expand on what you’ve taught them, you are giving them permission to be thinkers and to create and express themselves.
Question 20

At pick up time, two mothers start arguing outside your classroom door. One mother feels her child is being bullied by the other woman’s child while at school. The conversation is getting heated and your students can now hear it.

What should you do to help in this situation?

- Call the police, you do NOT want to get in the middle of that.
- Walk out into the hallway and tell the two women to be quiet and then shut your door. Distract the children by playing their favorite music.
- Calmly let the two mothers know that the children are becoming concerned by their loud voices. Ask them if they’d like to stay and talk in your classroom with you after the students leave. You can have another teacher watch their two children so the two women can work through this concern.
- Dismiss their two children immediately so they can leave. You don't want them to stay there and argue.

Correct Answer:

Calmly let the two mothers know that the children are becoming concerned by their loud voices. Ask them if they’d like to stay and talk in your classroom with you after the students leave. You can have another teacher watch their two children so the two women can work through this concern. By offering to be a part of the discussion, you can help the women figure out what is going on, after all you are the one that would be observing the behaviors that concern them. Through guided conversation, you can help the two mothers see that it’s normal for children to argue from time to time, you can share ideas how to talk to their children at home and offer to monitor the interactions at school. Hopefully this will allow you to work together, as a team, to respectfully address the situation and assist the children in resolving their conflict.
Question 21

Lan has been having trouble using scissors to cut out shapes from papers. Her peers are able to do this. Lan has lately refused to participate when scissors are part of an activity. What should her teachers do to help Lan with this skill?

- Cut out the shapes for her during activities so that she can participate. She is not developmentally ready for cutting.
- Let her take the activity home to complete it there. It is her parents’ job to help her learn to cut.
- Have another child do her cutting for her while Lan does the other parts of the activity. Lan is obviously frustrated with cutting and should not be forced to use scissors at all.
- Give Lan some extra activities at other times which will help her develop her fine motor skills. When cutting is required, help her use the scissors before she gets frustrated and gives up.

**Correct Answer:**

Give Lan some extra activities at other times which will help her develop her fine motor skills. When cutting is required, help her use the scissors before she gets frustrated and gives up. Children develop fine-motor skills at different rates. Giving Lan other activities which will help her develop these skills will be less frustrating than cutting. While her skills are developing, give her the chance to use the scissors while helping. You might also offer her a different type of scissors which may make cutting easier. Encourage her to do what she can and intervene before she gets frustrated. Do not point out her lack of skill to the other students.
Question 22

Brianna’s parents are concerned she is still wetting her pants every day. She is three and they do not want her wearing diapers.

How can you best show them you respect their concerns and are there to support them?

- Agree with them she is too old to be behaving like this and find a system you both can use to punish her for wet pants.
- Tell them they are being silly and it’s not that big a deal.
- Tell them to put her back in diapers, it’s unfair to ask you to change wet clothes all day.
- Listen to their concerns, share what you are seeing and work together to support Brianna during this developmental experience.

Correct Answer:

Listen to their concerns, share what you are seeing and work together to support Brianna during this developmental experience. - When parents share their concerns with you, you can best support them by listening to what they have to say in a non-judgmental manner and then work with them to find an acceptable
Question 23

You have two field trips a year, which you are a part of choosing and planning. For your fall trip, you have planned a trip to an orchard. Two of the mothers approach you and tell you they are not happy with this choice and want your class to go to the zoo.

What should you do?

- Cancel the orchard trip and take your class to the zoo.
- Tell the mothers if they are so unhappy they can plan the next trip.
- Take the time to listen to the women and acknowledge their interest in a trip to the zoo. While this trip is already planned, you will be sure to keep the zoo in mind for your spring trip.
- You can’t make everyone happy all the time. Just ignore them, they will get over it.

Correct Answer:

Take the time to listen to the women and acknowledge their interest in a trip to the zoo. While this trip is already planned, you will be sure to keep the zoo in mind for your spring trip. While it’s true you can’t make everyone happy all the time, it’s important not to give the impression you don’t care about your classroom parents’ feelings. You have put time and energy into planning this trip and it’s a good place for the children to go, however, if you let these moms know you respect what they are sharing, you will have a stronger relationship with them going forward. Ask them to help you plan a zoo trip in the spring, not only will they be happy to be involved but it will be a big help to you!
Question 24

A little boy in your class falls down and cries. He doesn't have a scratch but is very upset and wants a bandage.

You should:

- Remind him that boys don't cry.
- Let him pick out his bandage and assist in putting it on.
- Ignore his crying and praise a child who is playing nicely.
- Gently tell him he needs to stop crying and to go play.

Correct Answer:

Let him pick out his bandage and assist in putting it on. - While it may not seem a big deal to you, his cut is a big deal to him. Scrapes and cuts can be scary for a small child. You can help ease his fears by acknowledging it hurts and help him to clean and dress his wound. Being a part of the process will help to calm him down and trust that he will be fine. It will also teach him you respect his feelings and care about him.
Question 25

Frannie has not been to school in a week and her parents have not contacted the school to advise she will be out.

What should you do?

- Nothing, they know what is best and will send Frannie back when they are ready.
- Ask Michael's mom, they are neighbors and she will know what is going on.
- Call the parents and let them know if Frannie does not return tomorrow, you will drop her and let another child take her spot.
- Call her parents and tell them you and the other students are missing Frannie and ask if everything is okay.

**Correct Answer:**

**Call her parents and tell them you and the other students are missing Frannie and ask if everything is okay.** - When a child is out for a few days, it's important to make contact with the family to make sure the child is well and that there are not any concerns with you, the school or the child. The parents will respect your efforts to assure everything is okay and to address any concerns they may have.
Question 26

One of the parents gives you an exotic plant for the holidays. The first thing you should do is:

- Write her a thank you note.
- Put it on the window sill and water it.
- Confirm that it is not toxic to small children.
- Take it home, a classroom is no place for plants.

**Correct Answer:**

**Confirm that it is not toxic to small children.** - Plants are a great thing to have in your classroom. The children will love taking care of them and watching them grow, however, some plants can be poisonous if ingested and you must assure whatever plants you have are not a potential safety hazard to your preschoolers.
Question 27

In order to avoid spreading germs, after you assist with toileting it is imperative you:

- Flush the toilet.
- Wash your hands using soap and drying them with a paper towel.
- Turn the light off and close the door to the bathroom.
- Wipe down the toilet and sink with bleach and water solution.

Correct Answer:

**Wash your hands using soap and drying them with a paper towel.** - When toileting a child, if your center provides them, it is a good idea to wear gloves, however with or without gloves you should wash your hands in hot water, rinse thoroughly and dry with a paper towel.
Question 28

Which of the following professional development practices is least likely to promote knowledge of new knowledge in the field of child care?

- Attending professional meetings
- Participating in training courses
- Reflecting on current practices
- Subscribing to professional publications

Correct Answer:

Reflecting on current practices - A caregiver should actively seek information about laws and policies which affect the welfare of children and their families. The caregiver can keep current and learn about new laws and regulations by attending professional conferences and training courses and joining professional organizations. It is especially important to learn about laws and policies which support children affected by abuse or neglect.
Question 29

You share instruments from several different cultures with your students and they are very excited to try them.
Which two ways below would best expand on their learning?

I. Put the instruments out for the students to experiment with.
II. Put the instruments out again in a month or so.
III. Let the students make their own instruments with fun materials from their environment.
IV. Read a book on a trumpet.

Correct Answer:

I and III - When students show interest in an activity, you can expand on their learning by allowing them to further explore materials. Further, you can have them make their own instruments using materials found in their environment. This will allow them to experiment with sound and use trial and error to make their instrument.
Question 30

There are five stages of the CDA process: prepare, apply, demonstrate, earn, and renew. In order to prepare for CDA certification, the candidate must have:

- Received a high school diploma with ten hours of training in one area of certification
- Received a college degree with 180 hours of training in all areas of certification
- Received a high school diploma, GED or be enrolled in an early childhood program
- Be enrolled in an early childhood program in a certified and accredited institution

Correct Answer:

Received a high school diploma, GED or be enrolled in an early childhood program

Before applying for CDA accreditation, the applicant must have either a high school diploma, GED certification or be enrolled in an early childhood career/tech program in high school. The applicant must also have completed 120 hours of training including ten hours in each area of the CDA subject areas. The applicant does not need a college diploma.
Question 31

A well designed curriculum for your students would include which of the following:

- Student directed activities
- Daily gross motor activities
- Music and movement activities
- All the above.

Correct Answer: All the above.

An appropriate curriculum is one designed to allow students the opportunity to choose activities such as can be found during center time. Set out a variety of activities designed to spark imagination and encourage play and exploration. Daily gross motor activities are essential for a child's development as are a variety of music and movement activities. Children love to sing and dance, capitalizing on their natural enthusiasm will increase their learning experience. The more activities are designed to involve the children, the stronger the impact of your planning will be.
Question 32

Your school's playground has received a great new climbing structure with swings, a slide and a small rock wall. The kids are so excited to use it and are finding it hard to pay attention to the teacher's lesson.

You should:

- Have recess early, it's clear they will not calm down until you let them play on it.
- Let them know if they don't calm down, they will miss recess today.
- Take them outside a few minutes early so you can show them the safe ways to use the equipment.
- Read them a book to help them calm down.

Correct Answer:

Take them outside a few minutes early so you can show them the safe ways to use the equipment. The students are understandably excited but it is important to take them outside and show them the new equipment. Share with them and have them share with your ideas on how they can play safely.
Question 33

You have been talking about Ocean Life in your classroom and have a movie about dolphins they can watch. One of the moms doesn’t allow her son to watch television or movies.

What should you do?

- Show the movie. If she doesn’t want her son to watch, she can keep him home.
- Show the movie and make the child go to another classroom.
- Speak with the mom and explain what your plan is, let her know what activities you are planning for your theme and how this movie will enhance her son's learning.
- Show the movie and hope the student doesn't tell his mother.

Correct Answer:

Speak with the mom and explain what your plan is, let her know what activities you are planning for your theme and how this movie will enhance her son's learning. Whenever you have a parent that puts restrictions on their child, it’s always a good idea to speak to them directly and explain your plan. This will allow the parent to make an informed decision and learn to trust you will be respectful of their concerns.

In this case, the mother may still say the child cannot watch the movie and, if so, can work with you to come up with a reasonable solution.
Question 34

Early childhood educators can advocate for excellence in the profession in all but which of the following ways?

- Taking a leadership position in a professional organization
- Educating parents about advances in educational theories and practice
- Adhering to existing regulations
- Educating the community about the laws governing early childhood education

**Correct Answer:**

**Adhering to existing regulations** - The key word is "advocate." The early childhood professional educator can advocate for excellence by increasing their involvement in professional organizations, by taking a leadership role and by communicating standards of excellence to parents, colleagues and the community. Educators must maintain high professional standards and adhere to all laws governing child education.
Question 35

In which instance is the childcare provider not required to report to local or state agencies?

- When physical symptoms of abuse or neglect are observed
- When children engage in behaviors which mimic physical or sexual abuse
- When behaviors occur which indicate emotional or sexual abuse
- When family situations or needs change

Correct Answer:

When family situations or needs change - Any instance in which abuse or neglect are observed or suspected should be reported to local or state agencies according to the policies of the care giving institution. Some reporting to state agencies is mandatory. The caregiver should recognize symptoms of abuse or neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse and follow state law in response. Changes in family needs or situations should be reflected in plans for individual children. For example, if a family is planning to move, appropriate support should be given to a child who will soon leave your care to help him/her make a smooth transition.
Question 36

Steven is telling you a story and makes some grammatical errors. You should:

- Immediately correct him.
- Accept his errors and model the correct verbiage in your response.
- Tell his mother she needs to have him tested for speech concerns.
- Ignore it.

**Correct Answer:**

Accept his errors and model the correct verbiage in your response. While developing their language skills, children will make mistakes. This is perfectly normal and part of the process. You can help by modeling the correct language usage. Correcting a child can make them tentative to try new language.
Question 37

When it comes to the children's names, you should:

- Call them by their full given name.
- Give them nicknames.
- Know and use their preferred name.
- Call the children all "baby" and "darling", that way you never make mistakes.

Correct Answer:

Know and use their preferred name. - Children often have nicknames that are used at home and are preferred over their given name and a caring teacher knows this name and uses it. Giving the children your own nickname for them is ok IF the child approves of the name. Children at this age often prefer the name they are used to and do not enjoy being given another nickname.
Question 38

Competency Statement III for CDA certification states that the educator is committed to supporting social and emotional development and to providing positive guidance. Which three functional areas are addressed in this standard?

- Self, social, and guidance
- Physical, cognitive, and creative
- Safe, healthy, and environment
- Communication, Creative, and Cognitive

**Correct Answer:**

**Self, social, and guidance** - The three areas included under this competency standard are self, social, and guidance. Educators must support the development of children as independent and successful individuals with positive self-images. Children must be encouraged to share and cooperate with peers and make friends. The teacher provides opportunities for learning acceptable behaviors and self-regulation.
Question 39

You are observing a three year old in your classroom. Which of the following is an acceptable way to document what you’ve observed?

- Jack is very sad today.
- Sally knocked over Megan’s block tower.
- Nancy was being mean to Owen.
- Peter was unhappy when he had to line up for recess.

Correct Answer:

Sally knocked over Megan’s block tower. - When observing children, your written observations must be objective and lack any emotional interpretation. Record what happened and not how you think the child felt about it.
Question 40

You are leading an activity that calls on the children to dance and sing. Some of the students are reluctant to join in. What should you do?

☐ Tell the students anyone who does not participate cannot go outside for recess after lunch.
☐ Tell the students who are not participating how disappointed you are in them.
☐ Encourage them to join and ask them to dance with you.
☐ Discontinue the activity since some children are not enjoying it.

Correct Answer:

Encourage them to join and ask them to dance with you. - Young children can be reluctant to join in at times and a caring teacher will encourage students to join in without using punishment or shame. If a child chooses not to dance, even after you encourage her to do so, she is still participating by watching and learning. She may be more willing to try next time if you give her the freedom to choose this time.
Question 41

You have a book the children love. You find a publication of this book written in Spanish. Since several of your students speak Spanish as their first language, you decide to share it with your class.

You should not:

- Read this book to them in Spanish. It will confuse them.
- Read it immediately following reading the English version.
- Read it to the English speaking students, they won't understand it.
- Read it to the Spanish speaking students, you want them to learn English.

Correct Answer:

Read it immediately following reading the English version. - Reading a book to students in another language will not stunt the language development of any of your students and will, in fact, enhance it. If you plan to read a well known book to them in another language, plan to read it to them on a different day than the English version.
Question 42

You want to assure children have a positive meal time experience. What does that mean?

- They finish everything on their plates.
- You reward the children who eat all their vegetables.
- Allows children to stand up and roam around if that is what they want to do while eating.
- Adults sit at the table with the children and have pleasant conversation with them.

Correct Answer:

Adults sit at the table with the children and have pleasant conversation with them. Mealtime should be a positive experience for children. They should be encouraged to try new foods but not punished if they don't or if they don't finish everything on their plates. Adults should sit with them modeling good table manners and healthy choices. The adults should also facilitate conversation between the children.
Question 43

Which of the following would be a non-verbal and non-intrusive way to encourage the children in your class when they are making good choices?

- Tell them they are doing a great job, you are so proud of them.
- Giving the child a thumbs up.
- Saying "WOOT WOOT" whenever you catch them doing something kind.
- Ringing a bell when a child is doing a good job.

Correct Answer:

Giving the child a thumbs up. - As a teacher, it is good practice to develop some non-verbal, thus non-intrusive, ways to encourage your students. One example is a thumb up. You can catch a child making a good choice and quietly give them a thumb up. They feel encouraged and you can keep doing whatever you were doing. Your strategies can be as simple as a wink or a smile - it only needs to give quiet reinforcement to a little one.
Question 40

Of the following, what is a good example of creating a pleasant welcoming classroom?

- Well known children’s show characters on the walls.
- Soft muted colors.
- Music on at all times.
- Children's art is displayed around the room.

Correct Answer:

Children’s art is displayed around the room. - Your classroom should be a warm welcoming environment for your students. Displaying the children’s artwork shows you value their contribution and that this is their space. You can play music, but it should be non-intrusive and at a softer volume unless part of a lesson.
Question 45

You realize the importance of classroom rules. Who should create those rules?

- The teacher.
- The teacher and the center director.
- The children and their teacher.
- The children.

Correct Answer:

The children and their teacher. - While, as a teacher, you must have an idea of what you want the classroom rules to be, it is important to include the children in the development of those rules. You can guide the children to give you what you ultimately want the rules to be, but their involvement in the process will help them to both understand and embrace the rules.
Question 46

John is having a difficult day in his infant/toddler room. Several of the toddlers are more fractious than usual following the holiday weekend. John suspects that their parents were consistent about rest times during the break. After two toddlers getting into a ruckus over a toy, John pulls out a video and puts the toddlers down on mats in front of the screen. Some fall asleep and others watch quietly. What would be best practice in this situation?

- Keep the videos going until all of the toddlers fall asleep. They need their rest. When their parents pick them up tell them to keep to rest schedules every day.
- Put all the toddlers down for naps and walk away. Darken the room. Keep them in their resting places for longer than usual so that they can get extra rest.
- Engage small groups of toddlers in a variety of activities, changing them when they become bored or fractious. Keep as close as you can to the regular daily schedule.
- After the video ends, let the toddlers who are still awake play on the computers because this will keep them calm and quiet. Let the others sleep.

**Correct Answer:**

Engage small groups of toddlers in a variety of activities, changing them when they become bored or fractious. Keep as close as you can to the regular daily schedule.

Research has suggested that computer or video times should be restricted or limited for toddlers. While a video might keep them quiet or put them to sleep, it is not best practice. If children are engaged in fun activities, they will be less-likely to be fussy. Taking them outside for some fresh air might also help. Keep as close as possible to the daily schedule, within reason, so that parents will be able to keep their schedules at home. Parents should be notified about the importance of rest and the recommendations concerning screen time.
Question 47

Who in your center should know what to do in case a child is injured?

- It’s more important that everyone know to dial 911 in case of an emergency.
- Everyone on staff should be trained on first aid.
- The director and the lead teacher.
- All the teachers.

Correct Answer:

Everyone on staff should be trained on first aid. - Everyone who is employed in the preschool or day care must be trained in first aid. It is important for all staff to be prepared in the case of an emergency, no matter how small or large.
Question 48

Your pre-K class is getting ready to go to Kindergarten. What is a way you can help them prepare for this big change?

- Arrange a trip on a school bus to visit the local Elementary School.
- Read many books on going to Kindergarten. Invite and help lead conversation about what they are feeling.
- Tell them every day how proud you are of them and how ready they are to be in Kindergarten.
- All the above.

Correct Answer:

All the above. - Your students have come to love and trust you over this past year. Your positive attitude toward this life event will help them feel more secure. Help them by encouraging them to discuss what they are feeling, by reading books to help them work through feelings and see that it will be alright, telling them you believe in them and that you're excited for them and know they are so ready to be "big kids". Your opinion means a lot to them. If you can, arrange a trip. Some schools have Open Houses, but if they don't, this is a great way to help your students and their families transition.
Question 49

Which of the following is not a commitment of the dedicated professional early child care educator?

- Showing bias toward a particular group because it does not support the family structure
- Providing quality education for all of the children in your care
- Valuing the cultures of children in your care
- Continuing professional development while in service

Correct Answer:

Showing bias toward a particular group because it does not support the family structure - Showing bias toward a culture, language, ethnicity or family structure is unethical. Educators should be committed to providing quality education, continuing professional growth, and valuing the variety of cultures children bring to care.
Question 50

When applying for CDA certification, the applicant must indicate that the required training has been completed. How many hours of training are required in an area of certification?

- 100 hours
- 480 hours
- 120 hours
- Ten hours

Correct Answer:

120 hours - 120 clock hours of training are required for an area of certification. The applicant should include proof of completed training hours when submitting the application. 480 hours of work experience are also required.
**Question 51**

Mary is learning to write her name. She comes over and shows you what she has written. What she has written looks like scribble.

What should you do?

- Tell Mary she needs to keep practicing.
- Tell Mary she has done a great job and maybe next time she can write her ‘M’ a bit better.
- Tell Mary to take her time and it will look better.
- Tell Mary she’s done a wonderful job and you are so proud of how she’s learning to write her name.

**Correct Answer:**

Tell Mary she’s done a wonderful job and you are so proud of how she’s learning to write her name. - Children develop at their own pace. Mary is proud of what she has done and you should be, too. You are teaching her an important skill and you can support her, and all your children, by being patient and allowing each child to be successful in their own way. You can work with a child and help them write the letters, helping them to become better at that skill, but as they are gaining a skill every effort deserves your praise and respect.
Question 52

Clare is an early reader. At the age of three, she can read most of the picture books in Mariah’s home care practice. During story times, Clare often asks to sit by herself and read. Mariah feels that Clare should participate with the group to develop interactions with text. In this situation, how would you advise Mariah?

- Let Clare sit and read alone. She already knows how to read and is not disturbing the other children.
- Insist that Clare sit with the group every day. It is most important for her to be a part of the group.
- Ask Clare to join the group on most days and encourage her to share her skills.
- Tell Clare that she needs to sit with the group to learn the skills that you are teaching. She can read on her own at home.

Correct Answer:

Ask Clare to join the group on most days and encourage her to share her skills. - Clare should not be made to feel self-conscious about her reading or singled out. She should be included in the group and encouraged to share the skills she has. Interacting with text in the group will help her acquire higher-order thinking skills. She might be given other time during the day to read on her own or the whole group might participate in "read-alone" times which will encourage all students to see reading as a valuable and enjoyable practice.
Nina, a student in Chad's home care practice, has a habit of whining when she wants something. You have discussed this with her parents, who tell you that she does the same thing at home and they don't know what to do about it. In this situation, what would be the best course of action?

- Do nothing since the parents are letting Nina whine at home.
- Ignore the whining and give Nina what she wants.
- Tell Nina that it is hard for you to understand her when she talks that way and ask her to take a few minutes to calm down and tell you what she wants in another voice. Respond positively when she does.
- Ignore Nina completely. When responding to other students, tell them that you like the way they ask for what they want. Point out that Nina is not asking correctly and that the other students should ignore her when she whines.

**Correct Answer:**

Tell Nina that it is hard for you to understand her when she talks that way and ask her to take a few minutes to calm down and tell you what she wants in another voice. Respond positively when she does. This might be a hard habit for Nina to break since she is using it successfully at home. Making Nina aware of the issue is the first step. She may not even realize that she is whining. Next, give her some time to consider her actions and try asking again. She may need to be given some examples and time to practice. When she does ask appropriately, the response should be positive and affirming. She should not be shamed in front of the other children or completely ignored.
Question 54

Michael is helping you clean up after snack. You ask him to put the napkins in the trash can but he chooses, instead, to try to carry the drink pitcher and spills apple juice all over the floor.

You should:

- Put him in time out, he did not follow your instructions.
- Sit him down and tell him he dropped the juice because he did not listen.
- Have him help you clean it up.
- Tell him to go play, you will clean it up.

**Correct Answer:**

Have him help you clean it up. - Michael was trying to help and, in doing so, spilled the juice. In cases like this, do not punish the child, tell him it’s ok and help him develop his self help skills by helping you to clean up. If you do it together and you do not criticize him, he will learn it’s ok to make mistakes and cleaning up can be fun, not upsetting.
Question 55

Abbie is still crying in the morning when her mother drops her off. She calms down after a bit, but the transition is difficult for her.

What should you do to help her with her drop off anxiety?

☐ Tell her she's going to be fine and remind her to put her book bag in her cubby.

☐ Greet her and her mother when they arrive. Be sensitive and caring to Abby's concerns and tell her the fun things you are going to do today.

☐ Tell Abby to say goodbye to her mother. Let her cry, she needs to cry before she can enjoy herself.

☐ Tell Abby she's a big girl and to stop crying. Have her help you set the table.

Correct Answer:

Greet her and her mother when they arrive. Be sensitive and caring to Abby's concerns and tell her the fun things you are going to do today. - For a young child, the anxiety they feel when their parents leave is very real to them. You must be sensitive to their concerns by naming them for them, for example, "I know you are sad to say goodbye to you mom." Help them transition by helping them say good bye to their guardian and identify some things they will be doing that day.
Question 56

To get CDA accreditation, the applicant must have:

- 480 hours of experience working with children whose ages and setting are the same as those chosen for your application
- 480 hours of experience working with children in any setting within three years of application
- 500 hours working with children in a variety of age ranges across accreditation areas within three years of application
- 50 hours in each area: center-based infant/toddler, center-based preschool, family childcare, home visitor, bilingual and special education

Correct Answer:

480 hours of experience working with children whose ages and setting are the same as those chosen for your application - In order to gain CDA endorsement, the applicant must have 480 hours of experience working with children whose ages and setting are the same as the area of application. These must be earned within three years of application. You must work in a specific setting and age group.
Question 57

It’s the holiday season and you have a lot of great ideas for your classroom. You are starting to feel overwhelmed because there just isn’t enough time in the day to do all the fun things you want to do.

Which of the following is the best way to handle this as outlined by your CDA competencies?

- Cancel all but the necessary activities – if you try to do too much, your students will be overwhelmed.
- Ask for parent volunteers to come in and help run some of the activities.
- Have your assistant run the activities.
- Ask your director for extra staff in your room for the holiday season.

Correct Answer:

Ask for parent volunteers to come in and help run some of the activities. - One of the ways to develop relationships with your families is to invite them to be part of your classroom and the holidays are a great time to have extra hands in your room. You are showing your parents you value them, respect their role in their child’s education and having fun at the same time!
Question 58

Which of the following is not an ethical responsibility of caregivers for children in care as detailed in the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct?

- Value each child's culture, language and ethnicity.
- Provide positive social and emotional environments.
- Avoid practices which are emotionally damaging, physically harmful, disrespectful or intimidating.
- Build rewards into the program for cooperative children and parents.

Correct Answer:

Build rewards into the program for cooperative children and parents. - Ethical conduct standards are guidelines for professional are responsible behavior. As defined by the ethical standards as set forth by the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct, caregivers shall not harm children in any way, shall value each child's culture, language, ethnicity, and family structure, and provide positive emotional and social learning environments which promote cognitive development.
Question 59

It’s a very cold day and your director has given you a space heater to use to warm up your classroom. It’s an older model and can get hot to the touch. She advises you to put it in the corner, out of the way.

This is:

○ a great idea, the kids should not be cold at school.
○ an unsafe condition, a child could get burned if she touched the heater.
○ ok as long as you watch the children closely.
○ not a good place to put it, you should put it up on a table so the children can’t reach it.

Correct Answer:

an unsafe condition, a child could get burned if she touched the heater. An unguarded space heater is a safety hazard in a classroom of children. Not only can a child burn herself but if it is placed somewhere unsafe (like on a table) there is a potential for it to fall or be knocked over and hit someone.
Question 60

A child in your class, Sammy, falls during recess and gets a minor scrape. You give Sammy emotional support while cleaning and covering his wound. The other children are very concerned about Sammy and are asking a lot of questions. You should:

- Tell them to go play, Sammy is fine.
- Answer the students’ questions and talk through how Sammy might be feeling.
- Answer one question and then have Sammy go sit somewhere quiet so he can calm down.
- Take Sammy into the office and have him color until his scratch feels better.

**Correct Answer:**

Answer the students' questions and talk through how Sammy might be feeling. If a child is hurt, not only is the child with the injury scared but it is reasonable for the other children to be concerned, too. Answering their questions and allowing Sammy to share his feelings will help them develop empathy and assure them their classmate is going to be ok.
Question 61

It is fall and your director wants you to do an outdoor unit that focuses on Fall Math. Which of the below would be a fun way to teach the children math concepts outside at this time of year?

- Gather leaves and sort them by size and by color.
- Work together in teams to fill a small bucket with acorns and pine cones.
- Do a scavenger hunt and during circle time, share your objects. Who has the biggest? Who has the smallest? Who found the most things? Who brought back the least?
- All the above.

Correct Answer:

All the above. - Fall is a wonderful time of year to have the children outside and exploring. You can incorporate every area of your lesson planning into outside learning. Having the children count, sort, and quantify are great ways to slip math into a lesson without it feeling like a math lesson! The children will enjoy sharing what they've found or filling a bucket with exciting treasures from the school yard.
Question 62

When working with preschoolers who are toilet training, it’s important to:

- During circle time, congratulate all the students who stayed dry and remind those that had accidents to do a better job.
- Gently remind them regularly to use the facilities, be encouraging and supportive.
- Have them go back into diapers if they have too many accident.
- Reprimand them when they have mistakes. They won't learn otherwise.

Correct Answer:

Gently remind them regularly to use the facilities, be encouraging and supportive. - When children are learning to use the facilities, it's extremely important to their emotional well-being to be supportive of this large change in their lives. Be encouraging of their successes, provide positive reinforcement with star charts or other very tangible options. Children will be responsive to kindness and caring over punishment and fear.
Question 63

A child in your classroom, Jimmy often exhibits behaviors that can be disruptive to the other students. You write notes home to help his mother monitor how his days go.

Today you are very frustrated with Jimmy’s behaviors. Which of the following notes would be the best way to advise his mother of his day:

- “Jimmy had a horrible day today. You need to tell him to behave.”
- “If Jimmy does not behave tomorrow, he will miss recess.”
- “I am concerned about Jimmy’s behavior today. When you have a minute, I would like to speak with you about it.”
- “Jimmy is not behaving in class and it is causing so much disruption. Please talk to him and let him know he needs to stop.”

Correct Answer:

“I am concerned about Jimmy’s behavior today. When you have a minute, I would like to speak with you about it.”

From time to time, students will cause you frustration. No matter how frustrating their behaviors are, you must relay the information to the child’s parents professionally, respectfully and without judgement. Offering to be available to discuss the issues will help the parents work with you to find a solution and best help your student succeed.
Question 64

Miss Tanya has posted her classroom rules, however the children don't seem to be following them.

What could be a reason for the children not following the rules she has outlined?

☐ The children don't know them, she has posted them but not gone over them with the students.
☐ The rules are not age-appropriate, meaning the children don't understand what is expected of them.
☐ The children are children and sometimes need to be reminded of the classroom rules and how to best follow them.
☐ All the above.

**Correct Answer:**

**All the above.** – A good teacher will create the classroom rules with the students and the environment in mind. She will be sure to share the rules with the students before posting them and, where logical, get their input on what some classroom rules should be. Once posted, the teacher will go over the rules regularly to reinforce the students' learning of what is expected of them.
Question 65

When observing your students, you should:

- Be able to remember everything so that you can talk to the parents during conferences.
- Tell your director things you are seeing.
- Have a system to document students and their progress.
- Only document the positive growth.

Correct Answer:

Have a system to document students and their progress. - Observation is a powerful tool for an educator, however, it only becomes useful over time if the information recorded is documented. Documenting a child's progress, both positive and areas of concerns, allows you to continue to meet the needs of your students and adjust your curriculum and attention accordingly.