Sample Questions for Preschool Teacher Applicants

Curriculum

- What are the most significant curricular topics for a preschool student to master?
- What would you use from national and state standards to guide your teaching?

Planning for Instruction

- Describe a successful lesson.
- A child comes to you and expresses a concern that he or she ran out of time to complete an assigned task. How would you respond?
- What would you do to capture the attention of young children?

Classroom Organization and Management

- What special safety precautions must be considered when working with very young students (two to four years old)?
- You have a four-year-old student who is extremely bright but has persistent behavioral problems and frequently slaps and pushes other students. What approach would you take in disciplining this child so that he or she learns the consequences of bad behavior?
- A child consistently tests the limits you established at the beginning of the term for class behavior. What would you do, and what results would you expect?

Assessment and Individual Needs

- How do you intend to assess student progress?
- Based on your observations during the first six weeks of the school year, you are quite sure that a student who had never attended any type of school in the past shows many characteristics of autism. How would you approach this in a way that would be helpful to the student as well as his parents?
- Young children need a great deal of attention. How would you plan to create opportunities to individualize the attention that you provide to each of the children who will be in your room?
- What modifications in your teaching practice would you use to accommodate learning disabilities or language minority students in your room?
- Explain a task that might be developmentally inappropriate for a three-year-old, yet could be done easily by a kindergarten student.

Professionalism and Communication With Parents

- Describe what you expect to see in a successful parent conference.
- What new research or pedagogical methods have you encountered recently that will influence your teaching practices?