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Special Education Core Skills (Birth to Age 21)

Subtest 2 Sample Items

**1. Trina, a kindergartner who has developmental delays, tends to display increased
negative behavior during large- and small-group activities when she is near two specific
peers in her class. In these situations, her ability to attend decreases, and she often
responds in a negative manner when the teacher attempts to gain her attention. Which of
the following strategies would be most appropriate for Trina's teacher to use *first* in
addressing this situation?**

- A. assigning additional work to Trina when she exhibits negative behaviors during group activities
- B. taking away free time when Trina is not paying attention during group activities
- C. reviewing with Trina's class the behavioral expectations for group activities on a daily basis
- D. separating Trina from the two peers while participating in group activities

**2. Nadia is a 17-year-old student with a moderate developmental cognitive disability (DCD).
With the support of her teachers and family, Nadia has expressed an interest in
employment at the local hospital folding laundry. To help Nadia achieve this goal, which of
the following instructional strategies would likely be most effective?**

- A. scheduling multiple visits to the hospital so that Nadia can observe employees folding laundry
- B. recreating a laundry room in the classroom so that Nadia can practice folding laundry
- C. arranging for Nadia to practice the steps involved in folding laundry at the hospital with an
  employee
- D. involving the family in having Nadia fold laundry at home until she can do so independently

**3. Steven is a third-grade student who has an emotional or behavioral disorder (EBD). He
demonstrates little motivation to participate in spelling units. To avoid the weekly spelling
units, he becomes verbally loud, disrupting instruction and classroom activities. Steven's
general education teacher consults with the special education teacher about how to
promote his participation in this part of the curriculum. Which of the following strategies
should the special education teacher recommend to increase Steven's motivation and task
productivity with spelling?**

- A. arranging for a volunteer to practice spelling words with Steven
- B. providing additional time for Steven to practice the spelling words
- C. preparing Steven's spelling words from a lower grade-level list
- D. incorporating spelling words that reflect Steven's individual interests

**4. Which of the following best describes the primary task of a student's Individualized
Education Program (IEP) team during a manifestation determination meeting?**

- A. investigating whether the student's misconduct in school is or is not a result of the student's
  disability
- B. deciding with a physician whether the student should take medication to regulate behavior in
  school
- C. recommending a more appropriate special education placement for the student
- D. increasing the level of services the student receives throughout the school day

**5. Ms. Egan is a special educator who teaches in a second-grade inclusive classroom. At
the beginning of the school year, she establishes volunteer opportunities in the classroom
and two volunteers begin helping during small-group activities on a weekly basis. Ms. Egan
wishes to increase the volunteers' success in working with students on various activities.
Which of the following strategies would likely be most effective for this purpose?**

- A. developing a written method for assessing the volunteers' performance each time they lead an
  activity with students
- B. providing the volunteers with copies of students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to

read so they can understand the needs of individual students during activities

C. meeting with the volunteers before small-group time to define the goals of the activities and discuss ways in which the volunteers can facilitate students' participation

D. requesting input from the volunteers about the development of new activities they could conduct with students

Answer Key

Item Number	Correct Response	Subarea	Objective
1	D	I. Promoting Student Development and Learning	0005
2	C	I. Promoting Student Development and Learning	0006
3	D	I. Promoting Student Development and Learning	0006
4	A	II. Working in a Professional Environment	0007
5	C	II. Working in a Professional Environment	0008

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