



Pre-kindergarten Lead Teacher Interview Questions Score _____/65

1) Tell us about yourself?

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
5	4	3	2	1

2) Describe your philosophy of education?

Answer Sample: The candidate's answer should demonstrate an understanding of the Adventist philosophy of restoration into our Maker's image through physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional intelligences.

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
5	4	3	2	1

3) Why do you want to work at _____?

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
5	4	3	2	1

4) Describe your classroom management and discipline style?

Answer Sample: Teachers regularly experience various types of disruptive student behavior, from the frustrating but relatively minor problem of talking during class, to more challenging problems, like students confronting the authority of the teacher. The candidate should provide specific examples showing his or her ability to have planned ahead for such instances by having procedures in place and a clear action plan to deal with serious discipline issues relying primarily on positive reinforcers, though negative reinforcement does have its place at times. The candidate should show some awareness of the Florida Conference's initiative in Responsive Classroom, and point students back to the Bible and Heroes of the Bible as exemplars.

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
5	4	3	2	1



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- 5) **You will be dealing with students who are four and five years old. Tell us how you build rapport and handle students at this age group.**

Answer Sample: The candidate should indicate their understanding of developmental differences in the age groups, their ability to develop rapport through using the a sense of humor, showing genuine interest in the students, their feelings and their aspirations; availability; encouragement and relating lessons in everyday terms and current applications to the students' lives today; and examples that are relevant to the students.

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- 6) **Describe how you work to engage parents and communicate student progress.**

Answer Sample: The candidate should demonstrate his or her ability to work together with parents to help and assist students, encourage parents to provide proper support and home learning environment, weekly classroom newsletters, and remaining non-defensive when parents appear hostile.

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
5	4	3	2	1

- 7) **Tell us how you go about working cooperatively with the administration and the staff.**

Answer Sample: The candidate should demonstrate his or her understanding of coming in as a new member of a campus with an established culture and set of educational beliefs. The candidate should provide examples of how he or she would work with the administration towards school and professional goals and objectives as well as cooperatively with other staff members.

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
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- 8) **A staff member tells you that they are bothered by something the principal or Early Childhood coordinator has said or done. What would be your response?**

Answer Sample: The candidate should demonstrate his or her understanding that they can be an sounding board for their colleague, but they should not engage in gossip or bashing the administration. The candidate should reference referring the colleague back to the administration, and keeping the new information obtained confidential.

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- 9) **A parent comes in and is angry or even hostile. How do you handle this situation?**

Answer Sample: The candidate should be able describe techniques used to genuinely hear the parent's concern and calm the situation down. It is appropriate that as humans there are times when we are unable to turn a situation around and mediation or help is required. The candidate should be able to determine when the course of events requires administrative mediation.

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10) Describe what a prekindergarten classroom looks like.

Answer Sample: The candidate should demonstrate his or her understanding needing to following and supplement the curriculum through modeled, guided, and independent practice; centers such as math, reading, listening, blocks, dramatic play, play dough, science, and writing; and frequent, on-going assessments that drive the instructional process.

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11) Many of our students come from homes where English is a second language or spoken in a pigeon dialect. How do you help students master academic English when they may appear on the spectrum as an English as a Second Language Learner?

Answer Sample: The candidate should have a basic understanding of the levels of ESL learners and encourage students by providing opportunity to learn vocabulary, practice hard to say words, avoid typical American clichés such as, “It’s raining cats and dogs,” provide opportunities to practice the language in a non-threatening environment, being aware of student cultural and personal needs, working patiently, providing rich aural and oral language experiences.

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- 12) As a part of RTI you will be expected to have standards-based lesson plans, and trimesterly meetings regarding student growth objectives. What will you look for in communicating with your administrator and what should he look for in you?**

Answer Sample: The candidate should be able to provide details on the type of communicator he or she is, and how they would like to be treated professionally by the administration. The candidate should also be able to articulate that the administrator will see a teacher that has a strong work ethic, is flexible, is open to suggestion or improvements, and is a team player.

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- 13) If the principal, early childhood coordinator, or an associate superintendent walked into your classroom, what would they see in relationship to your lesson plans?**

Answer Sample: The candidate should be able to articulate that they would be following their lesson plans, but if a point of interest related to their thematic unit presented itself, the candidate would use the “teachable moment.”

Excellent	Strong	Average	Weak	No Response/Off Topic
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