

# Special Education Instructor Job Interview Questions And Answers



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# Special Education Instructor Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

## Question - 1:

Do you know what is RTI?

### Ans:

RTI stands for response to intervention. It is basically a data based process of diagnosing and assessing learning related disabilities and to determine the appropriate instructional style to which the student responds well. In other words it is research based intervention to enhance and facilitate the process of learning among children with special needs.

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## Question - 2:

Tell us why did you become a special education teacher?

### Ans:

There are no right or wrong answers to this special education interview question.

Research shows the common reasons for becoming a special educator include coming into contact with someone with special needs when growing up. This encouraged the educator to value and understand the challenges faced by children with special needs and to want to help.

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## Question - 3:

Tell us what is your philosophy?

### Ans:

How do you set your teaching goals for special education? How have you monitored the progress of each child? How would you define success in special education teaching? Tell us about success/failures stories. Speak about articles you have read, and techniques you have observed. Of course, include your own - especially the more fascinating examples.

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## Question - 4:

Do you know why is collaboration important?

### Ans:

I think collaboration benefits the quality of instruction and supports for students with disabilities. Resources are combined to strengthen teaching and learning opportunities, methods, and effectiveness. Each member of the team brings their individual skill set, training, and unique perspective to ensure that the individualized needs of each student are met.

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## Question - 5:

Explain me how have you encouraged parental involvement in student learning?

### Ans:

Ongoing communication with the family fosters a supportive relationship. This includes providing a clear explanation of the student's IEP, regularly sending out IEP report cards on student progress towards set goals, management of expectations by providing clear measurements, keeping accurate records of interactions with parents and really listening to parents.

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## Question - 6:

Tell me the students you have been working with?

### Ans:

I have worked with physical handicaps, ADHA patients, children with autism, mental retardation, Down's syndrome and children with learning disabilities.



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**Question - 7:**

Explain me what was your most difficult course in college?

**Ans:**

One of the most challenging courses for me while obtaining my degree was Statistics. Because I am more therapy and behavioural based by nature, it was difficult for me to fully embrace the factual parts of this course. I did find a tutor for that class and was able to pass it with a good grade.

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**Question - 8:**

Tell me how have you ensured that each student receives the right type of support?

**Ans:**

Show how you determine where each student is and prioritize learning accordingly. The focus may be on developing basic social skills or on task completion. Highlight your ability to use different teaching styles and resources to meet diverse needs.

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**Question - 9:**

Tell us what is the 'individuals with disabilities act'?

**Ans:**

The individuals with disabilities act is a federal law that governs and dictates the policies applicable in early age interventions for children with special needs.

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**Question - 10:**

Tell us if you could do anything different in your education, what would you do?

**Ans:**

When I first started my career, I wasn't as focused on a speciality and ended up spending a lot of time working with students who had more low-incidence disabilities. I wish I had been introduced to more specific work, with individuals affected by Autism, sooner in my career.

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**Question - 11:**

Tell me how do you stay current with special education best practices?

**Ans:**

Demonstrate your knowledge of federal and state special education regulations, current trends and research in the field of special education. Give examples of your commitment to ongoing professional development through attending workshops, seminars and courses.

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**Question - 12:**

Tell me how Will You Assess the Progress of Your Students?

**Ans:**

As a special education teacher, your duties will go far beyond managing and promoting good behavior; you will be providing an education that stays with your students for their entire lives. As such, your interviewer will ask about your methods for assessing your students' progress. The school at which you are applying may have its own standards that you will be expected to follow, but you should mention some of your own assessment techniques as well as the ways in which you have adapted them to meet the needs of your students. You should also mention the ways in which your methods address each student's strengths and weaknesses-and provide specific examples.

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**Question - 13:**

Tell me how do you motivate students to persevere with challenging assignments and tasks?

**Ans:**

Your ability to motivate students will be carefully evaluated with special education teacher interview questions. Student motivation to complete tasks can be enhanced through making positive changes to the learning environment, increasing the interest of the activity, analyzing the task to identify areas of concern, responding to individual limitations and strengths and providing appropriate reinforcers or rewards. Provide a specific example to support your answer.

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**Question - 14:**

Explain me an unsuccessful experience you may have had in this role?

**Ans:**

It is unfortunate that despite skills and experience, one cannot possibly help every student in rehabilitating. There was a student who had an emotional disorder and his parents were sure he didn't need a psychologist so he was brought to the institute where I worked. After six months of constant therapy, the child had a breakdown because he was unable to cope with how we were handling him. His parents finally agreed to psychological counseling but it did leave me upset for a while.

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**Question - 15:**



Please explain how have you collaborated with general education teachers to benefit your students?

**Ans:**

Highlight your role on the team as an advocate for your students. Emphasize your ability to work collaboratively with other teachers and support staff to help your students succeed including regular consultation regarding progress towards educational, social, emotional and physical goals. Demonstrate that you act as a valuable resource for the general education teachers by providing specialized activities, modifications, IEPs for your students.

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**Question - 16:**

Tell us as a special education teacher, how do you ensure the success of lesson plans?

**Ans:**

It is a given that special education is nothing like regular education which means that all lesson plans designed for a special education class need to cater to the individual needs of students. For me, differentiated instruction is the route to success here. I rely highly on adaptation methods such as modified materials, possibly with pictures and ensure that these are incorporated into lesson plans for efficacy.

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**Question - 17:**

Explain me how have you established procedures and rules for behavior to maintain order among your students?

**Ans:**

Effective classroom management depends on providing the structure and routine required by special education students. The students need to know what rules and procedures apply to them. Specific and clear communication of these rules and procedures is key. Each student needs to know on a daily basis exactly what is expected of them.

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**Question - 18:**

Please explain what special education strategies and techniques have you used to help your students?

**Ans:**

Highlight your expertise in differentiated instruction when answering special education teacher interview questions. Discuss development of individual educational plans (IEPs). Give specific examples of modifications, group work, assessments and explicit communication techniques. Show your understanding of the different classifications such as speech disorders, ADD, emotional disorders and language processing difficulties. You will be expected to have basic knowledge of a wide range of disabilities.

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**Question - 19:**

Explain me a challenging experience as a special education teacher and how you dealt with it?

**Ans:**

I had an 8 years old ADHD child in my classroom once. Rest of the children were having different problems and did not disrupt the lesson. He would make loud and sudden noises that disturbed the other children and also upset some. I developed a strategic short term plan based on negative reinforcement that worked wonders for the child and his behavior became under control within a month.

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**Question - 20:**

Please explain what is a multi-tiered approach? When do you implement it?

**Ans:**

The multi-tiered approach is a teaching model that enables the teachers to pay attention to needs of all the students in the classroom. The approach divides the needs onto three tiers in shape of a pyramid, beginning from universal needs, moving up to the second tier offering group targeted interventions to enable better learning. While the top tier addresses intensive individual needs and call for individual interventions through IEPs. It is usually implemented when resistance to intervention surfaces.

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**Question - 21:**

Tell us why did you choose a career in special education? Why do you want to work with children with special needs?

**Ans:**

Be honest. What indeed did motivate you? Perhaps it was a need to work with those that have the biggest need. Maybe the impact you could have, watching transformations of personality and ability. Or was there someone in your life who benefitted from a S.E. teacher, which inspired you? Express yourself enthusiastically.

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**Question - 22:**

Explain me what is the key to being a great special education teacher? Explain how you use and adapt lesson plans and materials?

**Ans:**

This is one of the few special education interview questions that has one consistent answer: differentiated instruction. No matter what level of special education and age group you will be working with for the given position, differentiated instruction will be a huge component of the job. Be prepared to talk about specific adaptation methods, such as creating modified materials with pictures, and how you will incorporate these materials into various types of lesson plans.

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**Question - 23:**

Tell us how do you adapt your lesson plans and material to meet the special needs of students?

**Ans:**

After assessing each child thoroughly by applying various evaluation techniques I develop a lesson plan utilizing differentiated instruction which covers the learning styles of majority of the students. I then also develop IEP's for some students as needed.

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**Question - 24:**

Tell me how have you managed to keep up with the paperwork required of a special education teacher?

**Ans:**

Focus on your planning and organizational skills. Provide an example of the time management techniques you utilize. Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the large amount of administration (including Committee on Special Education meetings) and paperwork involved and your willingness to take accountability for the process.

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**Question - 25:**

Explain me about yourself/ What can you tell us about your background that will bring your resume to life?

**Ans:**

Well, I've wanted to be a teacher since I was five. I can still remember playing games with my sisters when I was younger and always wanting to play teacher. My decision to be a teacher started in high school when I began exploring more job opportunities working with children. I did a lot of babysitting and tutoring, and it was then that I decided I wanted my career to be working with children. I developed a love for special education when I was junior in college during student observations and student teaching experiences where I found myself being drawn to students that required more support. "here is truly nothing more rewarding than watching a struggling learner finally grasp a concept that had been difficult. I love being able to do that every single day.

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**Question - 26:**

Explain me a little about your students?

**Ans:**

I have been very lucky in working with a number of students with diverse special education needs. I have had the opportunity to deal with students diagnosed with ADHD, autism, emotional and speech orders and physical handicaps.

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**Question - 27:**

Explain me what strengths do you bring as a special education teacher?

**Ans:**

I am very expert in assisting and facilitating students with various learning tasks and bring 5 years of experience in the field. I am a strong motivator and also a compassionate person.

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**Question - 28:**

Explain me how do you regularly assess the progress of your students?

**Ans:**

Your experience of student assessments will be explored with these special education teacher interview questions. Show that you have in-depth experience and knowledge of a variety of assessment techniques. Demonstrate how you adapt the assessment to make it appropriate to the student's needs, strengths and limitations with specific examples.

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**Question - 29:**

Explain me what methods do you use to encourage students to explore learning opportunities?

**Ans:**

Often students are not motivated to learn, particularly when they feel inadequate or have experienced failure. What creative methods have you successfully used to build motivation? You have to be innovative in coming up with new ways to build the students' self esteem and belief in the possibility of success.

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**Question - 30:**

Tell me how can you illustrate to me your dependability?

**Ans:**

In my current role I have had colleagues comment quite frequently that they are happy they can rely on me to be at work, complete what I say that I will, and fill in where necessary. I am a strong team player and will absolutely cover work for a colleague if asked. I also have perfect attendance in my current position.

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**Question - 31:**

Tell us why Did You Choose to Become a Special Education Teacher?

**Ans:**

Since your primary goal as a special education teacher is to ensure that your students obtain the education necessary to lead productive lives, your interviewer will likely ask you how you maintain calm in the classroom so that everyone has equal learning opportunities. You should reply in the following manner: "I set clear rules at the beginning of the school year and apply a routine to everyday learning. I work with my students so that they understand which rules and procedures apply directly to them at all times. I also explain and demonstrate the penalties for breaking the rules clearly and ensure that each student is treated fairly."

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**Question - 32:**

Explain me have You Ever Dealt with an Especially Disruptive Student?

**Ans:**

When working with special needs children, you will likely discover that you will be required to implement disciplinary procedures that may differ from those used in typical classrooms. Your interviewer will ask you this question for various reasons. First, he or she will want to learn about your feelings towards students who tend to be disruptive and how you handle this on a personal level. Next, the interviewer will want you to list the steps you have taken to correct such behaviors in a way that is conducive to not only the disruptive child, but also for the rest of the classroom.

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**Question - 33:**

Do you know what is an IEP?

**Ans:**

If you are coming into an education interview out of state, you don't need to sweat the specifics for topics like IEPs that will have some differences in different areas. Instead, focus on the basics of all IEPs, including the following:

\* a general understanding of how to write an IEP

\* why you need to understand the needs, goals, strengths, and weaknesses of a student to write an effective IEP

\* how IEPs impact the general education setting and how you will structure this general education setting time

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**Question - 34:**

Tell us do you think teamwork matters when it comes to special education?

**Ans:**

Definitely! Special education demands more team work than an ordinary teaching position since the job requires collaboration with other teachers, mainstream teachers, instructional aides, parents and management on regular basis to develop and implement unique teaching strategies to cater for the children's special needs.

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**Question - 35:**

Tell us why do you feel that special education teachers need to work well with others?

**Ans:**

Handling special education means good communication skills. It is important to get along with every individual that is part of a special education program. It is only through getting along that the objectives of a program are met.

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**Question - 36:**

Explain me should students with special needs be mainstreamed as far as possible?

**Ans:**

Before your interview read up on the school district's procedures for determining which students need special education services. Find out what services and resources are available in the school for special needs students.

Read up on the latest inclusion strategies. Be prepared to support your answers to special education teacher interview questions that explore your teaching philosophy with hard facts.

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**Question - 37:**

Tell us how do you teach and encourage socially acceptable behavior from your students?

**Ans:**

Include elements such as assessing the cause of unacceptable behavior to design a behavior support program, clearly describing and demonstrating what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior and explicitly communicating the consequences of this behavior. Provide supporting examples.

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**Question - 38:**

Tell me how have you managed a very disruptive student?

**Ans:**

Students with different special needs demand varied approaches to discipline. Provide examples of at least two different approaches you used that were effective for the particular students in question. Focus on your attempts to understand what the problem behavior really means as well as how to modify it.

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**Question - 39:**

Explain me how do you handle yourself under stress?



**Ans:**

A couple of months ago we had a situation where one student had a complete breakdown in class. I was able to remain calm by following our program's protocol and taking the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the student and everyone in the classroom. I am generally quite good under pressure and even better when I feel well equipped to manage the situation.

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