

Child Development Associate® (CDA)

Sample Exam Questions

Center-Based
Preschool

INCLUDES SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWER KEY



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Child Development Associate® (CDA) Sample Exam Questions: Preschool

The following CDA® exam sample questions are provided for information purposes **only** and do not reflect the actual CDA exam content. They are intended to help Preschool CDA candidates become familiar with the type and style of questions provided on the CDA exam. The format, difficulty, and topics covered in the actual exam may differ. Performance on practice exams does not guarantee performance on the actual CDA computer-based exam.

Read each item carefully and respond to each question by selecting the letter that represents the best answer. Only one answer should be selected for each question.

1



Mark for Review

On hot days, when should drinking water be offered to children?

- A. Whenever the adult is thirsty and has a drink.
- B. When the children ask for water, otherwise they will not drink it.
- C. At meals or snacks, but not in between.
- D. Frequently, even if they have not asked for water.

2



Mark for Review

Your fire extinguisher is stored in a locked cabinet above the sink with poisons and other harmful substances. Why does this create a problem?

- A. A fire extinguisher must be within sight of adults and children at all times.
- B. A fire extinguisher should not be stored with poisons.
- C. A fire extinguisher must be easy to get to at all times.
- D. A fire extinguisher in a locked cabinet may explode.

3



Mark for Review

What should you do when displaying children's artwork?

- A. Choose the best artwork to hang up on the wall.
- B. Hang the artwork at the children's eye level.
- C. Be sure all the artwork looks the same.
- D. Hang the artwork in straight rows or make sure it is displayed neatly.

4



Mark for Review

By the time children are 3 years old, what can most do?

- A. Use the toilet with lots of help and reminders from adults.
- B. Use the toilet independently but have some toilet accidents.
- C. Use the toilet independently but have many toilet accidents.
- D. Use the toilet with no accidents.

5



Mark for Review

Which food is high in protein?

A. Soft Meats/Poultry.

B. Rice.

C. Peaches.

D. Spinach.

6



Mark for Review

When children need medication, which rule about parental permission should apply?

A. All medications, of any kind, require parent's written permission.

B. Prescription medicines require parent's written permission, but not non-prescription medicines, such as baby aspirin.

C. Parent's verbal permission can be used when there is no written permission.

D. Written permission is not needed if the parent brings in the medication.

7



Mark for Review

Which is a developmentally appropriate large muscle activity for most 3- and 4-year-olds?

A. Swinging and climbing.

B. Skipping rope.

C. Playing a team sport, such as kickball or football.

D. Riding a two-wheel bicycle.

8



Mark for Review

How often should fire drills be practiced with children?

A. Once a week.

B. Once a month.

C. Once every six months.

D. Once a year.

9



Mark for Review

Which is the best way to teach children science?

- A. Provide many real-life activities that help children explore the things in their world.
- B. Do week-long units on the weather, animals, and plants each year.
- C. Do simple experiments for the children to watch.
- D. Have books on nature in the book area and nature worksheets in the writing center.

10



Mark for Review

Where should preschoolers' learning materials — such as blocks, puzzles, books, and pretend play toys — be stored?

- A. In toy boxes, where children can reach them.
- B. On low open shelves, where children are free to use them.
- C. In closed cabinets to keep the room neat.
- D. On high open shelves, so teachers can reach them easily.

11



Mark for Review

What is a good way to get 3-year-olds to eat?

- A. Have no in-between meal snacks, so they will be hungry for meals.
- B. Make them sit at the table until their plates are clean.
- C. Let them help prepare some of the foods they will be eating.
- D. Serve only their favorite foods.

12



Mark for Review

How should you explain safety rules to children?

- A. Tell them all the rules at once, preferably at the beginning of the day.
- B. Use the child's primary language and include a demonstration.
- C. Explain the rules by telling the children what they should not do.
- D. Have the children repeat the rules three times to make sure they understand.

13  Mark for Review

Which skill are most children learning to do when they are 5 years old?

- A. Speak in short sentences.
- B. Name easy pictures.
- C. Retell stories quite accurately.
- D. Read short stories quite well.

14  Mark for Review

When two preschoolers disagree and hit each other, what is the best thing to do?

- A. Separate them so they will not fight any more.
- B. Tell them how to solve the problem they are having.
- C. Spank the child who started it to set an example for the group.
- D. Help them talk through the problem and work out their differences as well as possible solutions.

15  Mark for Review

How early should toilet learning be encouraged?

- A. When the child has her second birthday.
- B. When the child moves into the 2-year-old class.
- C. When the child shows interest and signals that she is ready.
- D. When the child's friends begin toilet learning.

16  Mark for Review

Which is the music activity that best allows children to express individual creativity?

- A. Learning the correct movements to a song.
- B. Marching in a line while playing a rhythm instrument.
- C. Making up their own ways to move to music.
- D. Learning the words to a song introduced by the teacher.

17  Mark for Review

What should you do if you suspect a child is being abused at home?

- A. Report your suspicions to the appropriate authorities.
- B. Confront the child's parents with your suspicions.
- C. Keep your suspicions to yourself, since abuse is rare, and you do not want to make a false accusation.
- D. Ask other parents if they have noticed any signs of abuse.

18  Mark for Review

When planning a program for 4- to 5-year-olds, what is one of the most important goals?

- A. Providing many opportunities to practice writing.
- B. Helping them learn to sit quietly during group time.
- C. Providing many opportunities for discovery and informal learning.
- D. Teaching them the names of letters and numbers.

19  Mark for Review

When some boys make fun of another boy because he is playing with dolls, what is the best thing to do?

- A. Ignore their behavior, since it's not hurting anyone.
- B. Suggest that the boy play with other toys, so he won't be teased so much.
- C. Reassure the boy who is being teased, and talk with the boys about feelings and appreciation of individual choice.
- D. Punish the boys who teased by putting them in time-out and then have them play in housekeeping to see how much fun it is.

20  Mark for Review

How often should children's bedding be washed?

- A. Once a week, or more often if soiled.
- B. Twice a week.
- C. Once a month, or when the child has had a toileting accident at naptime.
- D. Whenever parents have time to wash them.

21  Mark for Review

Which is the best example of self-directed children's play?

- A. The teacher leads the children in singing a song.
- B. A child chooses to play at the sand table.
- C. A child works alone, at a game the teacher has told him to do.
- D. All the children do art together, at art time.

22  Mark for Review

When playing, what do older 3-year-olds prefer?

- A. Play by themselves.
- B. Play with one or two others.
- C. Play with an adult.
- D. Play with many children.

23  Mark for Review

When your 2-year-olds begin to show their independence by saying "No!", what is the best thing to do?

- A. Win every argument, so children feel secure because the adult is in charge.
- B. Give children as many safe choices to make for themselves as possible.
- C. Avoid all confrontations and let children be as independent as they want to be.
- D. Make sure children do not think they are in control by enforcing all rules.

24  Mark for Review

Which situation describes the most appropriate greeting when a parent and preschooler arrive at school?

- A. You greet the parent as the child runs off to play.
- B. You greet the child and talk with him about today's activities as the mother leaves.
- C. You look up from your desk to see who has arrived, smile at them, and continue your work.
- D. You say hello to both of them and ask how things are going.

Answer Key

1. D
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. B
13. C
14. D
15. C
16. C
17. A
18. C
19. C
20. A
21. B
22. B
23. B
24. D

Child Development Associate® (CDA) Sample Exam Questions

Center-Based Preschool

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and is the best first step on the path of career advancement in ECE. The distinctive CDA® credential is the only nationally-recognized, portable, reciprocal, competency-based credential of its kind in the country.

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) national credentialing program is the unique early childhood educator credentialing process, administered by the Council for Professional Recognition, which results in the award of the CDA credential. The program uses a specific set of time-tested, research-based tools to determine early childhood educator competency, based on multiple sources of evidence.

Earning the CDA credential from the Council for Professional Recognition verifies that early childhood educators have the ability to put the Council's nationally-recognized CDA Competency Standards into practice and the understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another.

Since the inception of the CDA national credentialing program, the Council for Professional Recognition has issued more than one million CDA credentials in the Preschool, Infant-Toddler, Birth to Five, Family Child Care, and Home Visitor CDA® settings!

Learn more at www.cdacouncil.org.

