

Middle School Special Education Teacher Interview Questions

1. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
2. How do you maintain order among your students?
3. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?
4. Describe an experience in which you identified the educational needs of your students and successfully developed a way to teach/train them.
5. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)
6. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.
7. Describe a time when you successfully provided personal assistance to a coworker or patron.
8. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
9. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
10. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
11. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?
12. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
13. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

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14. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?

15. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?

16. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?

17. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?

18. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

19. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

20. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?

21. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.

22. Share an experience in which you used new training skills, ideas, or a method to adapt to a new situation or improve an ongoing one. (Look for the candidate's ability to learn.)

23. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?

24. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

25. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?

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26. Provide an effective method you have used to teach socially acceptable behavior. Share an experience.

27. Share an effective method you have used to modify the general education curriculum for special-needs students. Describe the teaching methods you use.

28. Please share a class activity that you are exceptionally proud of. What made it exceptional? (Look for preparation.)

29. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

30. Share an example of when you've had to provide instruction on more than one subject.

31. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?

32. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

33. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)

34. Tell me about a strategy you developed and/or implemented which helped you to successfully meet the needs of students with a variety of handicapping conditions.

35. Tell me how you go about creating your lesson plans. (Look to see that the candidate establishes clear objectives for all lessons.)

36. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

37. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.

38. Share an experience in which you conferring with a parent, administrator, or professional helped you to develop an effective plan to promote a student's educational, physical, or social development.

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39. How do you go about evaluating your students' social development?

40. What is the state of your records and reports? What is one thing you would like to improve?

41. Provide an experience when you needed to meet with a student's parents to resolve the student's behavioral or academic problems. What was the end result?

42. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

43. Share a time when you've taught using methods other than a lecture. What was the outcome?

44. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.

45. Share an example of when you have counseled a student who had academic or adjustment problems. What about a student with special academic interests?

46. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)

47. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)

48. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

49. What is the most difficult aspect of evaluating your students' progress?

50. Share an example of when you prepared an outline for a course. Did you need to pay close attention to school, district, or state requirements?

51. Share an example of when you have worked with another teacher to plan a lesson?

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52. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What guidance and direction did you find most effective?

53. Provide an effective method you have used to teach students personal development skills.

54. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated the placement of students with special needs into mainstream classes.

55. Describe an effective method you have used to prepare for assigned classes, including written preparation.

56. Provide a time when you had to tell a parent that their child was not progressing. Was there a time when the parent didn't take it well? How did you handle the situation?

57. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.

58. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)

59. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

60. How have you used technology to aid your teaching?

61. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring your company was compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that were applicable to your area of responsibility?

62. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

63. Share an effective method you have used to ensure that teachers adhere to program requirements.

64. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

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65. Share an effective method you have used to monitor students' use of equipment and materials to prevent injuries and damage.
66. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
67. Share an experience in which your ability to consider the costs or benefits of a potential action helped you choose the most appropriate action.
68. Provide an effective method you have used to instruct students in daily living skills required for self-sufficiency. Share an experience.
69. Provide an experience in which your ability to actively find ways to help people improved your company or your own work ethic.
70. Provide an experience in which you administered standardized tests which helped you effectively determine students' strengths and areas of need.
71. Provide an effective method you have used to organize, label, and display materials and students' work.
72. How do you effectively use teacher assistants and volunteers? (Does the candidate plan, supervise, and evaluate assignments?)
73. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.
74. Share an experience in which you successfully helped a parent in dealing with a student's impairments.
75. Provide an experience in which you improved your professional competence.
76. Describe an experience in which your ability to work well with others and reconcile differences helped your company or employer. (Make sure the candidate knows how to negotiate.)
77. What factors do you consider when organizing recreational activities? How do you ensure that the activities promote physical, mental, and/or social development?

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78. Share an effective method you have used to help students with sensory impairments and/or to consult teachers regarding helping students.

79. Have you served on any committees? Tell me more.

80. Provide an experience in which you successfully performed administrative duties.

81. Describe a time when you successfully persuaded another person to change his/her way of thinking or behavior.

82. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?

83. Share your experience providing interpretation and transcription of classroom materials through Braille and sign language.

84. Describe an experience in which you successfully provided additional instruction in a vocational area.

85. Share a time when you planned a class project, field trip, visit by a guest speaker, or another experiential activity?

86. What factors do you consider when selecting classroom materials?

87. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the work of someone else. How did you effectively motivate, develop, and direct the worker(s)?

88. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.

89. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

90. What has been your involvement in student extracurricular activities?

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