

TOP 9 TIPS

TO NAIL YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR INTERVIEW

1. PREPARE YOUR ANSWERS. 

In education interviews, you can be confident that you will be asked questions about things such as lesson planning, classroom management, teaching philosophy, differentiated instruction, & other topics. Review your course materials for information on these topics and prepare your answers in advance.

2. KNOW THE NAEYC STANDARDS. 

Be prepared to answer questions in a way that shows you know NAEYC standards & can confidently align lesson plans accordingly.

3. DRESS CONSERVATIVELY. 

Working in the education field, you will be a model for learners. Always make sure you dress professionally and modestly to show that you will be a great role model.

4. USE THE STAR TECHNIQUE. 

When asked questions that start with “tell us about a time when...”, utilize the S.T.A.R. method to formulate a well-rounded and complete response.

S: Situation (set the scene, background)
T: Task (specifics of requirements)
A: Action (what YOU did in the situation)
R: Result (discuss the positive outcome)

5. DO YOUR RESEARCH. 

Each center is unique and has its own history, reputation, and strengths. Research the center with which you are interviewing and determine why/how you are a good fit.

6. KNOW YOUR TECHNOLOGY. 

Be prepared to speak about the current technology being used at the center. Additionally, prepare to discuss how you could incorporate technology into your day-to-day activities.

7. HAVE A PORTFOLIO READY. 

Utilize Portfolium to create a digital showcase of your work for your future employer. Upload items such as lesson plans, classroom design ideas, instructional strategies, etc.

8. KNOW THE BUZZWORDS. 

Buzzwords are often regional- or state-based. Find out the common buzzwords in your area to show that you are up-to-date on current trends. *For example: developmentally appropriate practice (DAP), self-regulation, scaffolding, dispositions, behavior regulation, early literacy, etc.*

*Additionally, make sure the buzzwords you use aren't outdated.

9. FOLLOW UP. 

Following up with a “thank you” card or email is an extremely important part of the interview process. Make sure to send a “thank you” email to every person who was involved in the interview.