

# PRESCHOOL TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## 1. What motivated you to become a preschool teacher?

I have a deep passion for teaching, especially early childhood education, where I can be around kids and nurture young minds. I find teaching preschoolers and young kids in general rewarding and fulfilling. Fostering a love of learning in kids and developing a positive environment for their growth is incredibly joyful for me and keeps me motivated to teach preschoolers.

## 2. Share your educational background & experience as a preschool teacher.

I have a degree of Master of Art in Early Childhood Education from the University of Cambridge and I am a certified childcare professional with an experience of over ten years. I have an internship experience under a senior preschool teacher and then I worked as a preschool teacher for 4 years at a local school, followed by working as a preschool teacher at a national school for the last six years. I have experience handling various roles and responsibilities of being a preschool teacher and I am currently looking for a new adventure to further refine my skills and gain new experiences.

## 3. What are some of your strengths and weaknesses as a preschool teacher?

I always believe my patience is my biggest strength, and indeed when working with preschoolers, it is one of the requirements. Additionally, I am empathetic, can build deep connections with my students, and can provide them with a safe and growing environment. However, sometimes I feel I struggle in encouraging kids maintain a routine in the classroom. To overcome this, I implement easy and small routine activities and end each activity with a reward and a reason behind those routines. Rewards keep them motivated and reason helps them understand the values behind the routine tasks.

## 4. Why are you interested in this role? What do you think your duties here will be? Does that align with your interest?

My deep passion for teaching and the school's culture and philosophy intrigued me to apply for this role. The innovative approaches to instill behavioral and educational skills in children through various activities and lessons, and making kids engage in extracurricular activities to develop soft skills is a great way to make little kids competent. I strongly believe both soft skills and hard skills are necessary to succeed in life, which this school follows, hence, I applied for the role.

## 5. What do you think are the necessary skills for being a preschool teacher? Do you have those skills?

Many skills are necessary to be a preschool teacher and some of those skills are patience, effective communication skills, flexibility, listening skills, compassion, adaptability, and attentiveness. From my years of experience, I can say, I am good at these skills and I am continuously working on refining them.

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### 6. What teaching approaches do you use in your classroom?

Major approaches that I have always used in my classrooms and which I find highly useful are a combination of inquiry-based learning, discovery-based learning, and play- techniques. I find these super effective in reinforcing the holistic development of kids while stimulating their brains to make them academically competent. I also have experience employing Reggio Emilia activities and Montessori teaching approach in my classroom and I find it amazing in developing positive behavioral changes in kids. However, I am always open to adapting to new approaches as required by kids.

### 7. What does your classroom look like on a regular day? What activities do you implement in your classroom to make it more interesting and creative?

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### 8. How do you make your lesson plan more interesting and effective?

I find lesson plans great to foster academic, social, and mental abilities in kids. In my previous job, I developed various lesson plans that were suitable for kids with different learning levels and kept kids captivated and organized. I ensure to add engaging activities that are unique and brain-stimulating to keep children interested in learning. Additionally, I use colorful patterns and attractive visuals to retain the kid's attention and develop curiosity in them.

### 9. What according to you is success? How do you track the progress and success of the preschoolers?

I believe success is when my kids feel happy at the end of the day and content with their learning. They should feel they have learned something new and their curiosity has been satiated. That's what success is to me. To keep track of the progress of success in my students, I typically look at their behavioral progress and how well they are developing soft skills. Additionally, weekly tests give me an overview of their academic progress. However, I understand every school has its own system which they prefer to follow.

### 10. How do you handle the diverse needs of kids in your classroom?

First, I believe it's important to understand every child. What are their strengths, and weaknesses, how well do they learn in group settings, which teaching approach is most appropriate, and so on. Once I have a general idea of the needs of every child in my classroom, I prepare my lessons and ensure to employ customized instruction plans for kids who require additional attention. From my previous experience, I can say a combination of teaching approaches work best in diverse settings. For instance, I used to implement technology and regular lessons both to ensure kids not only learn but also practice enough to comprehend and retain it will.

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## 11. What are some of the challenges you face with teaching preschoolers?

One of the major challenges that I faced in my initial teaching years was to develop communication skills in my kids. While some kids are easy to communicate with, some take time to open up and communicate. In these kinds of situations, I prefer small steps. Instead of grilling kids for quick results, I prefer to be patient and give them the needed space. Meanwhile, I motivate them and reward them for their progress. On a side note, it helped me understand how every kid is different and learns things at their own pace.

## 12. How do you deal with the mistakes on your part?

Sometimes, mistakes are just inevitable, however, I see them as an opportunity to learn and grow. Whenever I make any mistake, I prefer to analyze it with a calm mindset and think of an effective way to deal with it. However, if I end up making some big mistake which can be problematic for others, I immediately prefer to talk to my seniors for better guidance and take full responsibility for it.

## 13. Why should we hire you for this role?

You should hire me because my commitment to teaching and developing a strong foundation for kid's growth is a crucial requirement for being a preschool teacher. Additionally, my experience makes me a perfect fit for the role and I am capable of fostering positive changes in kids and providing them a better learning experience. I have a record of instilling creativity and curiosity in my classroom, which I believe are the foundation of healthy development.

## 14. Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

In the next five years, I see myself still surrounded by little kids and taking care of their diverse needs. However, with time, I want to be more developed as a person and a teacher and be capable of more advanced work. I would love to be in a managerial position in the coming future to bring more positivity and growth in the school's culture and kid's curriculum.

## 15. How do you cope with your stress and keep yourself motivated in this challenging career?

I prefer patience and calmness to deal with challenging situations. When I am in control of my impulses, I decide and act better. Additionally, to keep myself stress-free, I constantly practice meditation and deep breathing. These help me to stay rooted and calm, even in the toughest situations.