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Mississippi-Foundations-of-Reading Certification Exam



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Question: 1

A first-grade teacher schedules 10 minutes each day for sight word practice. This daily practice will most likely improve students' reading proficiency by building which skill?

- A. Decoding
- B. Automaticity
- C. Phonemic awareness
- D. Phonological awareness

Answer: B

Explanation:

Automaticity refers to the ability to recognize printed words quickly and effortlessly. Because sight word practice helps increase the number of words students can recognize quickly and effortlessly, it builds automaticity. Sight words are often difficult to decode using typical phonics rules. Phonemic awareness and phonological awareness involve identifying and manipulating sounds rather than reading printed words.

Question: 2

Meg is preparing an expository research report to share information about the costs involved in pet ownership. She shares information she printed from a website during her research that she plans to incorporate into her report. The website states, "Even though having a dog requires a significant amount of time and attention, I believe it is definitely worth it. Everyone should have a pet dog because they are the most loyal friends you will ever find." Which of the following would be the most appropriate topic for a mini-lesson based on Meg's current plans?

- A. Synthesizing information from multiple sources
- B. Choosing between a descriptive and compare/contrast text structure
- C. Using headings and other expository text features
- D. Differentiating between facts and opinions

Answer: D

Explanation:

Meg is creating an expository research report to share information about the costs involved in pet ownership. The information she obtained from the website contains opinions rather than facts, which is signaled using phrases like "I believe" and "most loyal." It is important for Meg to differentiate between the two so that she can support her topic with facts. If Meg will likely need to synthesize information from multiple sources, choose an appropriate text structure, and

include text features, the information provided indicates that differentiating between facts and opinions is an immediate need in order for Meg to successfully complete the assignment.

Question: 3

Of the following, which kind of learning disability would have the most direct impact on a student's reading instruction?

- A. An expressive language disorder
- B. A receptive language disorder
- C. An articulation disorder
- D. A movement disorder

Answer: B

Explanation:

Although concurrent learning disabilities and disorders are common, e.g., attentional, receptive, and expressive language difficulties often coexist. an expressive language disorder (A) would have the most direct impact on a student's speaking and writing performance and instruction. A receptive language disorder (B) would have the most direct impact on a student's listening and speaking performance and instruction. An articulation disorder (C) would have the most direct impact on a student's correct or intelligible speech production or pronunciation. A movement disorder (D) could have impacts on speech production, but by itself it should not affect language or reading development.

Question: 4

Among effective reading strategies, which one involves recalling relevant past experience and existing knowledge to construct meaning from the new information in text that one reads?

- A. Inferring
- B. Activating
- C. Questioning
- D. Summarizing

Answer: B

Explanation:

Activating is the term experts use to identify the reading strategy whereby the reader activates prior knowledge and applies it to the new information in reading to construct meaning from it. Inferring is a strategy whereby the reader combines what the text states explicitly with what it does not state but implies, and combines these both with what s/he already knows to draw inferences. Questioning is the reading strategy whereby the reader engages in "learning dialogues" with the text, author, classmates, and teachers to ask and answer questions about the text. Summarizing is the reading strategy whereby the reader paraphrases or restates what s/he perceives as the text's meaning.

Question: 5

Which of the following statements regarding the acquisition of language is false?

- A. Young children often have the ability to comprehend written language just as early as they can comprehend or reproduce oral language when given appropriate instruction.
- B. Oral language typically develops before a child understands the relationship between spoken and written words.
- C. Most young children are first exposed to written language when an adult reads aloud.
- D. A child's ability to speak, read, and write depends on a variety of physiological factors, as well as environmental factors.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Most adults can understand the relationship between oral and written language: components of oral language have representational symbols that can be written and decoded. However, most normally-developing children acquire spoken language first and begin to develop reading and writing skills as they approach school-age. Many children are first exposed to the concept of written language when an adult introduces books or other written texts. However, a child's ability to read and write develops over time and is dependent on the development of physiological processes such as hearing, sight, and fine motor skills for writing. Written language development also typically requires direct instruction. Most children must be taught to read and write and rarely learn these skills simply by observing others.

Question: 6

Which choice is correct regarding flexible grouping for reading instruction within and across classrooms?

- A. Flexible grouping within the classroom is a homogeneous format.
- B. Flexible grouping across classrooms has a heterogeneous format.
- C. Flexible grouping within the classroom prohibits added resources.
- D. Flexible grouping across classrooms can vary teachers for reading.

Answer: D

Explanation:

For reading instruction, flexible small groups can be created by student skill levels within a classroom or across classrooms. Grouping within the classroom is heterogeneous grouping across all classrooms at one grade level is more homogeneous (B). For within-classroom groups, schools can bring in additional materials, staff, and other resources (C) during reading block times for small-group instruction. For across-classroom groups, depending on student needs, students' original classroom teacher or another teacher may give them reading instruction (D).

Question: 7

A teacher wants his students to become familiar with a wide range of genres and text structures. Which of the following options would best help him achieve this goal?

- A. Displaying posters describing different genres and text structures in the classroom
- B. Rewarding students who choose to read a variety of different types of books during independent reading time
- C. Selecting books from different genres and with different text structures for read-alouds and shared reading activities
- D. Sending home a list of varied books and encouraging students to check them out from their local libraries

Answer: C

Explanation:

By using varied books for read-alouds and shared reading activities, the teacher can ensure that students are exposed to a variety of genres and text structures. During these activities, the teacher can also help students explore the features of these texts. Choice A can be used to support this instruction, but the posters alone are not as likely to be effective as actually exploring varied types of books. Choices B and D do not ensure that all students will actually explore different types of texts.

Question: 8

Kindergarten students are viewing a digital storybook on the computer. As each word is read aloud, it is highlighted on the screen. Which two concepts of print does this highlighting best assist students with developing?

- A. Directionality and one-to-one correspondence
- B. Letter and word concepts
- C. Book awareness and book handling skills
- D. Word spacing and awareness of the relationship between the text and illustrations

Answer: A

Explanation:

By highlighting each word as it is read, children begin to understand that reading goes from left to right, which is known as directionality. They also begin to understand that each spoken word corresponds with one printed word, which is known as one-to-one correspondence. Letter and word concepts refer to an understanding that words are made up of individual letters. Book awareness and book handling skills include knowing how to hold a book and turn the pages correctly. Word spacing is the understanding that you include spaces between words on the page. The relationship between text and illustrations refers to an understanding that pictures provide clues about the meaning of the story.

Question: 9

A fourth-grade teacher wants to help his students analyze word in order to identify the meanings of unknown words. Which word could he use to best exemplify the strategy of analyzing word morphology?

- A. Trees
- B. Manuscript
- C. Butterfly
- D. Ceiling

Answer: B

Explanation:

The word manuscript has the Latin root manu, meaning hand, and the Latin root script, meaning write. By recognizing these roots, a reader can determine that the word manuscript means something written by hand. Trees does not contain any Greek or Latin roots that could be identified to determine the word meaning. Butterfly is a compound word, but the butter component does not assist with the meaning of the compound word. Although ceiling has the inflectional ending -ing, it is unlikely to assist students with identifying the meaning of the word when added to ceil.

Question: 10

When assessing error patterns in a student's reading, which is most detrimental to reading proficiency?

- A. Substitution of "control" for "contrariness"
- B. Substitution of "resistant" for "recalcitrant"
- C. Substituting a noun, not a verb, for a noun
- D. Substituting for errors informed by context

Answer: A

Explanation:

The type or pattern of error most damaging to reading proficiency is substituting words with similar appearances or spelling but completely different meanings, because this shows a lack of reading for meaning. Substituting synonyms (B) shows some comprehension of word meaning. Substituting like parts of speech (C) shows some comprehension of grammar and syntax. Substituting correct words or closer approximations for errors based on information from the sentence context (D) shows skills in both reading for meaning and self-correction.

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