1. Discuss the similarities and differences among students with and without disabilities.

When I look at all students, I have an understanding that all students can learn and be successful. When it comes to similarities among students with and without disabilities both groups of students need social emotional practices and strategies to manage feelings in the classroom. Both groups of students benefit from hands-on activities as well as open ended questioning.

The differences include;

 additional specialists (specialized teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, aides, social workers, etc.) are involved beyond regular classroom teachers. Also each diverse learner has their own IEP and individualized learning goals.

2. Describe the characteristics of various disabilities and their educational implications for students at your school.

 Many students at my school are nonverbal or have a speech delay. The implications that are provided are ; speech classes provided in large groups as well as one on one, communication devices and introducing new vocabulary to students daily.

3. Explain the effects disabilities can have on students’ academic and social development, attitudes, interests, and values.

Academic- Students may feel less motivated to try new lessons due to lack of skills that are needed to complete an academic task.

Social Development - Due to different delays and communication and not be able to understand social cues as being social with others is often difficult for diverse learners and can lead students to feeling out of place in society.

Interest- Often it is difficult to introduce an idea to diverse learners due to them being confident in one or two interests that they participate in. New interests may make them uncomfortable when new textures and routines are introduced.

Values- Can be misunderstood or not comprehended based on a students delay or lack of comprehension on how the world works around them.

 4. Describe how factors such as cultural diversity and human issues affect students with disabilities.

People in a community can either embrace diverse learners or look at them in a negative light. Human issues and biases in society can affect students with disabilities by the way they may be treated and addressed in their own community causing students to feel out of place and anxious when visiting familiar places in their community.

5. Explain how you address the unique learning needs of students with disabilities in the classroom, including those students with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

When addressing unique learning needs I always ask for family input, input from other teachers in the classroom and clinicians that assist the student as well.

6. Explain strategies you use when collaborating and co-teaching with general education teachers. Include discussion of why it is important to avoid becoming a silo, behavior enforcer, or aid in the classroom rather than a co-teacher.

Strategies used when collaborating and co-teaching with general education teachers include; conversations about classroom behaviors and ways to promote intrinsic motivation, ways to provide students with several different ways to display their knowledge as well as how to scaffold their learning. It is important to avoid becoming silo, behavior enforcer, or aid in the classroom rather than a co-teacher because students need to have an understanding that each teacher in the classroom is on the same page across the boards and understand that all adults in the classroom hold them to the same expectations at all times.

7. Describe how you use various types of technology to support students with disabilities in both the special education and regular education classroom.

Ipads with educational apps downloaded on the Ipads

Smart boards for touch and move learning as well as educational videos

ACC communication boards

8. Describe the legal responsibilities you have to protect the rights and privacy of students with disabilities. Include discussion of IDEA, procedural safeguards, FERPA, HIPAA, etc. Include examples of some dilemmas associated with upholding these standards.

9. Discuss how you collaborate with general education teachers to communicate, create, and store student documentation.

Verbal communication about student progress, work samples shared, videos of students working in the classroom and parent conversations are shared.

Information is shared about the students' learning style and various ways to provide appropriate materials for success.

10. Describe one or two of your favorite co-teaching strategies.