CANS Certification Exam Test-Taking Tips

* Use your CANS Manual during the exam.
* Read the whole story, at least twice. First read through and score each section individually. Circle all items that apply to a section of the CANS. During the second time reading the story, review the rating in each section of the CANS and ask yourself does that apply / is there relevant information to support this rating in the vignette. Only use the information provided. Avoid reading into the information.
* In practice you will be able to dig into issues and ask more questions. Testing is different. If there is no information relevant to a section of the CANS, do not score it. In these cases, provide a score of “0.”.
* Strengths are different from needs: Remember that a zero or three has different meanings for strengths and needs.
* Current caregiver section: Rate the person mentioned in the vignette who is caring for the child now. If this is an RCC or Group Home, rate the facility, not an individual staff member.