Job Coach as a Positive Role Model

(Lesson 4)

Scenario
Imagine you are a job coach working at a job site with a student who has Autism Spectrum Disorder. The student’s name is Susan, and she loves to talk excessively about anything that has to do with the Titanic. If allowed, Susan will talk for hours about the Titanic with anybody she encounters. You want to help Susan engage in more appropriate workplace conversation, so that she can be successful on the job site.

Directions
Listed below are various actions that you might take in this situation. Read these over and then answer the questions that follow.

Possible Actions:
- Allow Susan to say three things about the Titanic and then require her to move on to another topic.
- Model appropriate conversation by discussing a current event with Susan.
- Model appropriate conversation by discussing Susan’s favorite food with her.
- Encourage Susan to talk about other conversations with co-workers.
- Tell Susan that talking about the same topic all the time is “childish” behavior.

1. As Susan’s job coach, which of the actions listed above would you use in this situation?
2. Why would you choose that particular strategy?

3. Are there any choices listed above that you think would be inappropriate in this situation?

4. Why would that choice (or choices) be inappropriate?

5. What other strategies might you use in this situation that are not listed above?