Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. The legal standard is reasonable suspicion, not proof. He observed a pattern rather than a single sign, including a change from the child's own baseline, and the reading says waiting for certainty is both a legal violation and a practical failure because delay is what causes harm.

2. A reporter notices and documents while the agency investigates. Descriptions rather than conclusions keep the record accurate, and untrained questioning can contaminate a later investigation, so interviewing the child was not his job and could have made the case harder to handle.

Multiple Choice

1. A

2. D

3. A

Matching

1-C, 2-E, 3-B, 4-A, 5-D

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) suspicion, 2) Neglect, 3) investigating (or: investigation, assessment)

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: Requiring proof would guarantee delay, and delay is what causes harm. Reporters are not investigators and cannot gather evidence, so the law sets a threshold they can actually meet and gives the fact-finding job to a trained agency.

Q2: Untrained questioning can contaminate a later investigation and make a case harder to handle. Secrecy is a promise no reporter can keep, because the report has to be made, and breaking that promise damages the child's trust at the worst possible moment.

Q3: Home visiting nurse programs and respite care both reduce the isolation and exhaustion that raise risk. Concrete help with housing, income, and affordable childcare addresses the financial stress that appears in a large share of cases.