

Misty Hayes

1. I noticed several examples of shared control from “Large-Group Time from Jace’s Viewpoint. One example was that the children were encouraged to join the group when they were ready, they weren’t asked to come at a specific time. Another example is that the children are giving suggestions on what verses and motions to perform next in the song. The children were also allowed to put their own spin on the moves, there was no set way to perform each motion. It was very open-ended. One of the last examples of shared control that I noticed was that the children were allowed to carry on their own conversation during large-group time. Bryant and Jace had a conversation about Giants for the majority of the time that they participated in LGT, which they carried on to the playground. Lastly, the teacher’s took cues from the children on when to transition. The teacher took Jace’s suggestion to listen to the song again, and incorporated it into a transition to outside time.
2. After reading about shared control and watching so many great examples of shared control, I feel a strong desire to make some major changes in my classroom. I didn’t realize just how misinformed I was regarding all the ways I could offer children shared control. As of right now in my classroom I offer children the opportunity to lead us in the daily calendar and weather forecast, and I give the children opportunities to take turns being song leader during our morning songs. After learning more about shared control it is very apparent that these are not great examples of shared control. One thing that I do that I am proud of during large group time is that I try to provide non-lyrical music daily and I give the children opportunities to dance freely and I almost always imitate their dance moves or take cues from them in that setting.
3. I love the idea of incorporating more musical instruments and props like scarves, shakers, hoola hoops, etc into my Large-Group times. I think this would be a great start for me to start releasing a lot of control in my Large group setting back to the children and help it to feel more free and inviting. I am big on movement and music in my classroom and I think that would be a great place to start.