Choices for Children: Why and How to Let Students Decide (*)
Moreover, consider the conventional response when something goes wrong (as determined, of course, by the adults). Are two ... the reading? Hit them with a pop quiz. Again and again, the favorite motto of teachers and administrators seems to be ...

A number of writers and teachers who resist giving children the chance to make decisions have justified their opposition ... anything they please, deprived of structure or adult guidance, we are encouraged to settle for the controlling practices ...

The representatives are chosen in a contest, and the council has little real power in any case. Educators interested in ... philosopher Benjamin Barber has cogently argued, it is "the least significant act of citizenship in a democracy." See ...

Sometimes, however, the main barrier to giving children choices is a simple lack of gumption. Parting with power is not ...

I have heard teachers give it up after a single attempt, saying, "Children cannot behave responsibly," then remove all ...

Of course, it is still true that there won't be time to hash out every matter; sometimes a teacher will need to request that students just do something. But a democratic approach doesn't demand that everything is actively chosen, only that it ...

Teachers also benefit in other ways from allowing students to be active participants in their learning. In such a ...

scores of others in the profession, I would argue that there is a certain reassurance and satisfaction to be taken from making unilateral decisions. No wonder many teachers who express relief at having "a good class this year" use the word ...

22. Miron Zuckerman et al., “On the Importance of Self-Determination for Intrinsically-Motivated Behavior,” ...

if students were entitled to make decisions about, and had to agree on, everything they did, there would be no time to do ... with the "real" lesson. In class meetings, for example, teachers would do well to remember that, at least to some extent, ...

15. Citing several sources, Joseph D'Amico concludes that "children who have experiences in a school where they ...

18. Kathy Irwin, "The Eight Year Study," in Jervis and Montag, eds., p. 59. For a more comprehensive description of the study, see Wilford M. Aiken, ...

individual...

10. This research has been reviewed and evaluated by Suzanne C. Thompson, "Will It Hurt Less If I Can Control It? A Complex Answer to a Simple Question," ...

Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin


This research has been reviewed and evaluated by Suzanne C. Thompson, "Will It Hurt Less If I Can Control It? A Complex Answer to a Simple Question," ...

19. Scott E. Reed, "The Delusion of Control," Education Next, vol. 55, 1987, pp. 372-78. Adolescent girls (but not boys) were more likely to continue using an anticavity fluoride ...

Programs of Early Education: The Constructivist View

By Alfie Kohn

NOTES