

Control and Power Issues Inside and Outside The Classroom

Vita Valdmane

Teacher, Teacher Trainer, Gestalt Practitioner
Public Administration School, Latvia

Agenda

- ▶ Aim and reasons of the presentation (why?)
 - ▶ How can we recognize control? (what is it?)
 - ▶ Reasons for controlling (why?)
 - ▶ To control or not to control? (that's the question)
 - ▶ Tips (what to do?)
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Aim

- ▶ To raise awareness of control-related issues inside and outside the classroom



Why control?

- ▶ It just exists everywhere (politics, codependent relationships, hierarchical institutions and relationships)
 - ▶ Control is an issue for majority of the teachers (both control and being controlled)
 - ▶ It is MY ISSUE
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How can we recognize control in the classroom?

- ▶ We want our students to change
 - ▶ We have to have the right answers and we have a tendency to have the last word
 - ▶ We teach grammar
 - ▶ We don't tell the truth about students' performance (silent judgement)
 - ▶ We constantly criticize
 - ▶ We tend to give in to our students' wishes and wants (we are afraid of changing sth)
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How can we recognize control in the classroom?

- ▶ We use the same texts, materials, activities for a very long time without changing anything
- ▶ We talk behind somebody's back or gossip inside and outside the classroom



Why do we control?

- ▶ Fear (from the unknown, pain, change, losing sense of security)
- ▶ Immaturity

We would rather walk this earth as half-corpses than live dangerously, and realize that this living dangerously is much safer than this insurance – life of safety and not taking risks. (F. S. Perls)

To control or not to control?

- ▶ Inexorable
- ▶ Necessary from time to time
- ▶ Balance
- ▶ Awareness



Tips

- ▶ Be vulnerable
 - ▶ Don't compromise your integrity, self-respect
 - ▶ Be realistic about your expectations
 - ▶ Quit passive-aggressive behaviour, be direct
 - ▶ Accept that a large portion of life is laced with unknown
 - ▶ Embrace confrontations
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And food for thought...

- ▶ The less confident we are in ourselves, the less we are in touch with ourselves and the world, the more we want to control. (F.S. Perls)
- ▶ So, insecurity=control

