Introductory sentence:

A second technique that was chosen is from Alfie Kohn’s model and it is giving choices to children.

Body:

It is critical to allow children to make as many choices as they can during their day. Giving choices allows children more control over their lives. Children have little control as to what happens to them, so it is important for their development to allow them to make choices. A typical time when choices can really make a difference is when children are beginning to assert their independence. I can avert power struggles by offering appropriate choices to the child. On a morning visit the writer observed an ECE arguing with a toddler over putting their outdoor shoes on. The child wanted to wear their rubber boots, but the ECE wanted the child to wear their runners, as it was hot and dry outside. To avert a power struggle and to provide for independence for the child, I will allow the child to choose their outdoor shoes, as wearing hot boots is not a safety or health issue. Providing choices to children helps them develop self regulation. Decision making skills are practiced and refined when making choices. Children’s self esteem is also enhanced as children see that their point of view is valued. Children’s sense of self is valued and increased as children experience opportunities that support independence and self reliance. This technique is easily adapted for all age groups. Using the knowledge of child development gained through course material, I will be able to adapt the technique to all age groups. For infants, a choice can be given between two concrete objects displayed in front of the child. For preschoolers, abstract ideas and thoughts, such as painting or playing with blocks, can be a part of a choice. School age children exhibit more complex development, so the choices
provided to them will reflect that complexity. For example, I might ask the school age child to choose between three or four choices, or invite the child to determine the items to choose from. In each situation, I will support the child by phrasing the choices in a positive manner and will help the child, as much as needed, to implement their choice, or to help them process the choice once it’s been made.

Concluding Sentence:

Allowing for choices is a critical part of child development and the writer’s personal teaching strategy.