

One Page Resource: Large Group

HALF-DAY SCHEDULING EXAMPLE

9:00- 9:15

Arrival and Greeting
9:15-9:30
Circle (Large Group)

9:30-10:45
Self-Selection

10:45-10:55
Clean Up

10:55-11:25
Outside/Gross Motor

11:25-11:35
Wash Hands

11:35-12:00
Lunch

12:00
Departure

“Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning. They have to play with what they know to be true in order to find out more, and then they can use what they learn in new forms of play”

~ Fred Rogers
Mr. Rogers
Neighborhood

Large Group Dilemma? How can you fix it?

Begin large group with a “Breathing Out” activity then slowly progress to “Breathing In” activities.

Breathing Out- Large motor activities (dancing, movement, standing songs or chants)

EXAMPLE

On my head, my hand I place

On my shoulders, on my face

On my hips and by my side

Then behind me they will hide

Hold them up above so high

Make my fingers swiftly fly,

Hold them out in front of me,

Quickly clap, 1-2-3

Breathing In- Fine motor activities (sitting down and finger plays)

EXAMPLE

Open, shut them, open shut them

Give a little clap clap clap

Open, shut them Open, shut them

Put them in your lap lap lap

Creep them, creep them

Creep them, creep them

Right up to your chin chin chin

Open wide your little mouth

But do not let them in

Once the children are settled, here are some examples of what can take place during large group time, you can pick and choose what you would like to do (or come up with your own ideas):

- **Take attendance** (This can be a song)
- **Read or act out a story**
- **Demonstrate something** (Possibly the small group activity for the day)
- **Introduce plan for the day**

Have a routine for dismissing to the next activity!

EXAMPLE:

If you have on red,

If you have on red, stand up quick

If you have on red, stand up quick

If you have on red, stand up quick

And take a bow (or go choose your center)

What if they're not ready to settle down?

If you have gone through the routine of

“Breathing Out” before encouraging the opportunity for “Breathing In” and the children are still not ready to settle down for large group time, try one of the following ideas:

- Ask children for their ideas and what they would like to do
- Change story into a movement activity
- Shorten circle time and go outside