

## **PERCEPTION OF FOREST IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION**

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Trees and communities formed by them known as forests require unconventional approach because their biological existence is determined by decades and centuries. One should use perspective thinking and have special moral principles based on care for the future generations. In 2005-2007 within the Make a Connection program school and university students determined the species of all trees on the territories of two Moscow kindergartens; made schematic maps of the trees locations; laid out a forest corner in one of the kindergartens. In the course of this work students themselves gave lessons and played with kids, communicated with them, took photo and video footage of the lessons and then visited children with the laptop, introducing them to modern informational technologies. Older mentors taught kids to recognize trees, helping them to love them. Together they collected tree leaves for the herbariums, made patterns from berries and seeds in plastic lab cups. Children learned how to make and hang a birdhouse properly, played educational ecological games.

From 2009 to 2012 perceptions of forest became an essential part of the Moscow kindergarten №1820 work with children as a part of the “Kindergarten as a model of environmental culture” experiment. Different projects for children from 4 to 7 were developed and implemented, such as “Researching the trees on the kindergarten territory”, “Researching lumber properties”, “Growing leaves from buds on cut branches from different trees”, “Birds of our city”, “Builder beavers”, “Visiting the forest”. During the forest lessons, as with the other subjects, kindergarteners, specialists and supplementary education teachers use the integrated approach that combines project research and art activities, music, physical training, games, stage activities, introduction to literature, TV program watching, excursions. A lot of attention is payed to children's independent activities.

The forest corner laid out on the kindergarten territory in 2010 with the help from MSU specialists provides a unique opportunity for children's everyday contact with natural forest flora. Currently the forest corner continues to grow, supplied with new forest flora specimens. We are planning to complete it with bushes and herbs to create an image of a real forest community