

EXPERIMENT IN THE KINDERGARTEN

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Since September 2009 we lead an experiment for creating an upbringing an educational system for the preschool children “Kindergarten as a model of an environmental culture” based in the Moscow kindergarten №1820. Within two years we mastered the program “Nadezhda: Preparing the 4-6 year old children to learn the basics of ecology, nature management and human rights” and complemented it with new methodical developments. The most important part of this program is a research activity, which is very interesting for the children. There is a successful work made by the speech therapists, physical training specialists and an ecology teacher. Under the guidance of L.V. Bal, M.D., we made a family survey concerning the healthy lifestyle issues. We laid the foundation for the ecological laboratory. Came up with such pedagogic innovation as “educational festivals”. The one-month preparation for ecological festivals includes the special lessons: children are introduced to winter phenomena in nature, life and diversity of flowers, life of the forest dwellers, forest value for the people etc. Teachers and parents prepare the children to the festival performances. Research projects are an important part of our experiment. Small kids explore the sand. Older children make paper – crush the old paper, soak it, etc. – and then draw “cave” paintings on their own homemade paper. In winter they play with colored ice. In spring 2010 we laid out a real forest corner and in autumn new inhabitants were brought there with the help of MSU scientists. Children helped to plant the primrose bulbs in the forest corner. In April 2010 a delegation of American foresters presented a rowan seedling to our “forest corner”, and on the Children’s Day, the 1st of June, the All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation (VOOP) gave us some young cedars – as a reminder of the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin’s space flight, who used “CEDAR” as a call sign. Specialists from kindergarten №1820 introduce their Moscow colleagues to these experimental developments on regional seminars, and their colleagues from other regions learned about their experience during the regular VOOP topical conference in December 2010. In the beginning of November 2011 specialists from kindergarten №1820 together with the fellows of MSU Faculty of Bioengineering and Bioinformatics and MSU Belozersky Institute of Physico-Chemical Biology helped to organize the exhibition stand for the VI Science Festival and introduce the guests to the “Studying nature with children” program. For participating in the VI Science Festival the kindergarten staff received an honorary mention from the Lomonosov Moscow State University principal, V.A. Sadovnichy, and the MSU fellows received the registered diplomas.