

WATER IN KINDERGARTEN COMPLEX PROJECT

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In 2011–2012 nine specialists and educators from our kindergarten took an MSU refreshment course Exploring Nature with Children. We use this new knowledge to teach children kindness and humanity, care for nature, people and themselves, sense of beauty and responsibility, above all for their own behavior and actions. For the children from orthopedic group №8 we developed the Water in Kindergarten complex project. The main goal of the project is to form the basis for the children's environmental culture by stimulating their mental and search activities. During group sessions children learn about water properties and importance of water in the life of humans and all living creatures, acquire water saving skills. Teacher helps children to summarize their notions of physical states of water in different seasons. In the swimming pool we give them special integrated lessons that meet the challenges of children's physical development and locomotion system correction, at the same time enriching their perception of water. During the swimming lessons we bring children's attention to the connection between environmental conditions and human's health. Taking part in drama games, such as “Where did the water go”, “Aibolit's lessons”, “Water is the beginning of all things” and “How is the water used in treatment”, children learn about water cycle, rules of conduct in the water and nearby, water sports. During the game children reinforce their observations: where does the tap water come from, how does it make its complex way from the river through the sewage treatment, how dangerous is the water pollution for animals, birds and humans. They try to clean the water themselves by using filters and removing foreign objects from the “pond” represented by the swimming pool. At the same time children increase their cultural and hygienic skills, learn to find a way out of the current problem. Educational festivals are also an important part of our work. By the Earth Day festival we worked out a scenario for the water festival. During preparations for the festival teachers and kindergarteners brought children's attention to the dangers of water and air pollution, reminded about proper outdoor behavior, taught them to observe, compare and summarize, thus fostering love and care for nature.