

THE FOREST CORNER IN THE KINDERGARTEN

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Children from big cities have troubles in communicating with the wild nature. They need adults to help them. In 2005-2007 a youth group “Nadezhda” carried out a range of projects within the “Make a connection” program. They laid out a “forest corner” on the territory of the kindergarten №1901, planting young pines, oaks, forest shrubs and two hundreds of primrose bulbs. School and university students taught children to recognize and love the trees. Together they collected tree leaves for the herbariums, created seed and berry patterns in the plastic lab cups. They learned how to make and hang up a birdhouse, played educational ecological games. In spring 2010, based on the experience of the “Nadezhda” program, a forest corner had been laid out in the kindergarten №1820. Following the advice of the MSU Botanical Garden dendrologist S. Kuptsov they chose a convenient spot for working with children that covered about 30 square meters, was located in the corner of the territory and was free from the household structures and inventory. It already had lindens, hawthorns, ash-trees, poplars and a larch. There were no oaks on the territory – probably the most fairy-tale-ish tree among the ones that grow in Moscow. That’s why we began with buying and planting four young red oaks – famous and honorable trees from ancient times. In autumn 2010 with the help of MSU scientists new habitants appeared in the forest corner: common ash (sycamore), nut tree (hazel), Manchurian walnut, cranberry tree. In autumn children helped to plant the primrose bulbs and participated in different activities in the forest corner. In spring 2011, when the ground was still covered with snow, children explored the trees and bushes, watching new leaves grow through the buds. Everyone was eager to see the first snowdrops blossoming in the forest corner. It is impossible to imagine the forest without birds, so we make all efforts to attract the birds to our forest corner. Last spring with the help of the parents we bought the birdhouse and hung it up on the linden, and starlings immediately settled there. Throughout the spring children and adults happily watched the starlings and listened to their songs. During summer and the next autumn another settlers arrived to the kindergarten №1820 forest corner – Siberian cedar seedlings, presented by the All-Russian Society of Nature Conservation, and a young rowan – a gift from American foresters.