

The Project «Sustainable Kindergarten» for Children and Adults

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Abstract

The project helps children to apprehend the principles of sustainable development through everyday experience in a kindergarten and study of their usual surroundings - the kindergarten building, territory and residential area. Children are active participants of the project. They make experiments, drawings, models, take part in thematic ecological events and celebrations, help create an ecological trail at the territory of their kindergarten, take care of plants and animals, help to spare resources and communicate with local community. At the same time children not only study environment of their kindergarten, but also improve it. Teachers, parents and schoolchildren are also active participants of the project. It helps them to realize principles of sustainable development and their own role in its achievement. The main aim is to show children and grown-ups the significance of sustainable development and to teach them how to practice its principles in their usual everyday life. As a part of the project educators, children and parents filled out a special form "The Ecological Passport of The Kindergarten", made as a book with several chapters, useful both for grown-ups and children. Each chapter described some field of work with children and parents. The project has helped many kindergartens to establish social partnership with local administrations, environment preservation departments, specially preserved natural territories, ecological centers and other institutions in their surrounding (every kindergarten has established its own unique partnership).

The project is a part of the author's education program for children from 2 to 8 years old "Nature Is Our Home", widely spread in Russia. For the present the project is being implemented in many early child care institutions.