

Forest of Happy Children

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Slovenia and Slovenian Forest

Forest is a common element of the Slovene landscape. 60% of Slovenia is covered by forests.

Slovenia and Slovenian educational system

Today the most important task in school is sitting in a chair.



Gustav Igler (1842-1908), Left to their own devices - 1881

What is the relationship between forest and children?



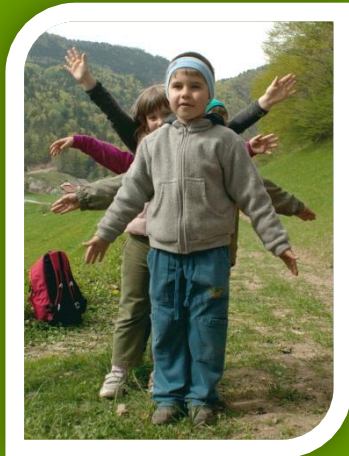
FOREST ◀▶ CHILDREN (CLASS)



**UNIQUE, CREATIVE
WORLD ON ITS OWN**

FOREST IS NOT AN AGRICULTURAL AREA !

SCHOOL IS NOT CONVEYOR BELT !



**CREATIVE
APPROACH!**



Research on outdoor play in the Kindergarten A. Medveda Kamnik



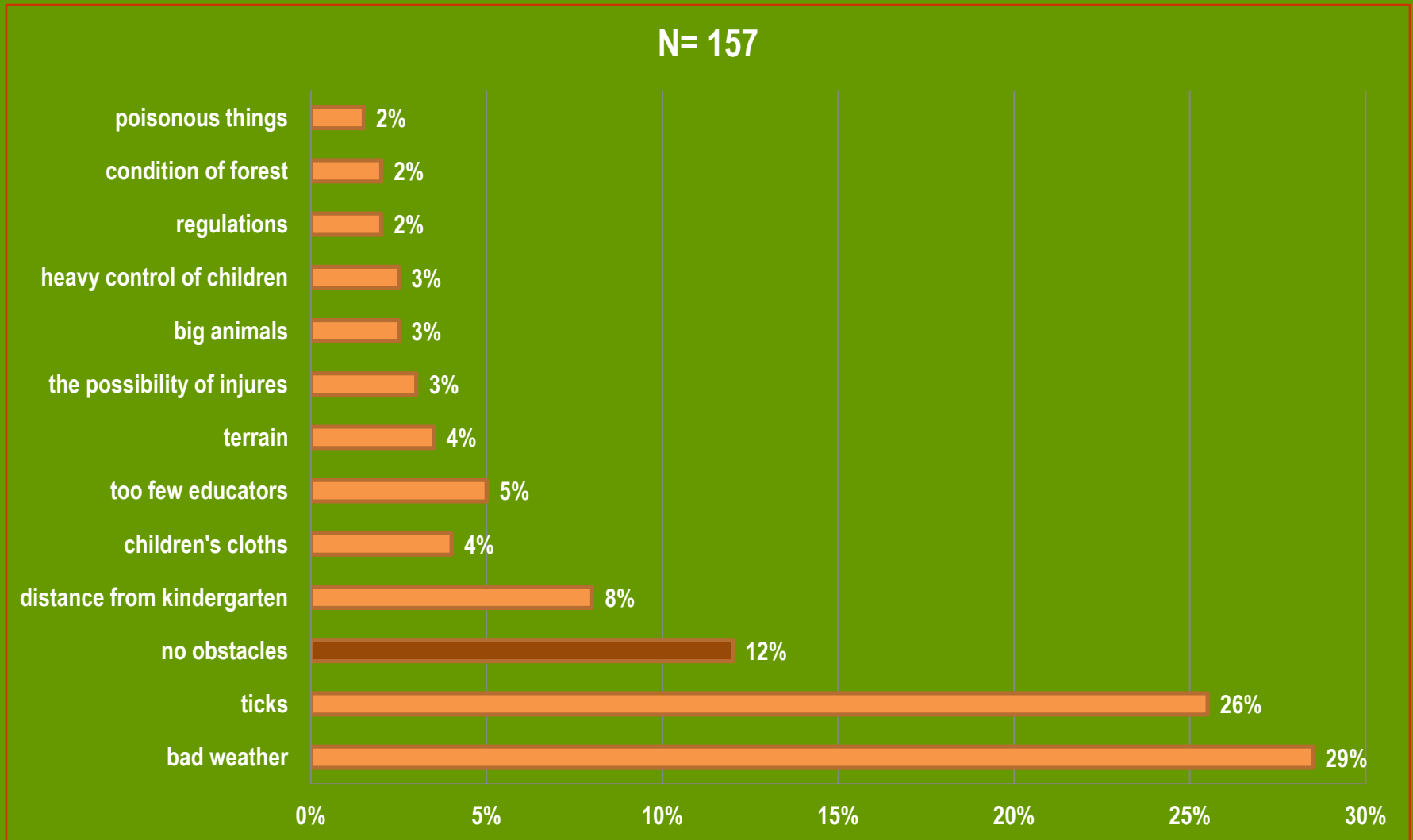
❖ parents, children and kindergarten teachers

Parents about playing in the natural environment!

- ☺ All parents confirmed that as children they had played in natural environments (N= 157) ,
- ☺ 94% of parents would prefer that their children attended kindergarten in the countryside, near forest (N= 157) ,
- ☺ 97% of parents had prepared the kids better fitted for the forest excursions (waterproof footwear and clothing) (N= 157),
- ☺ all parents wished, that the forest activities would continue in next school year (N=103).

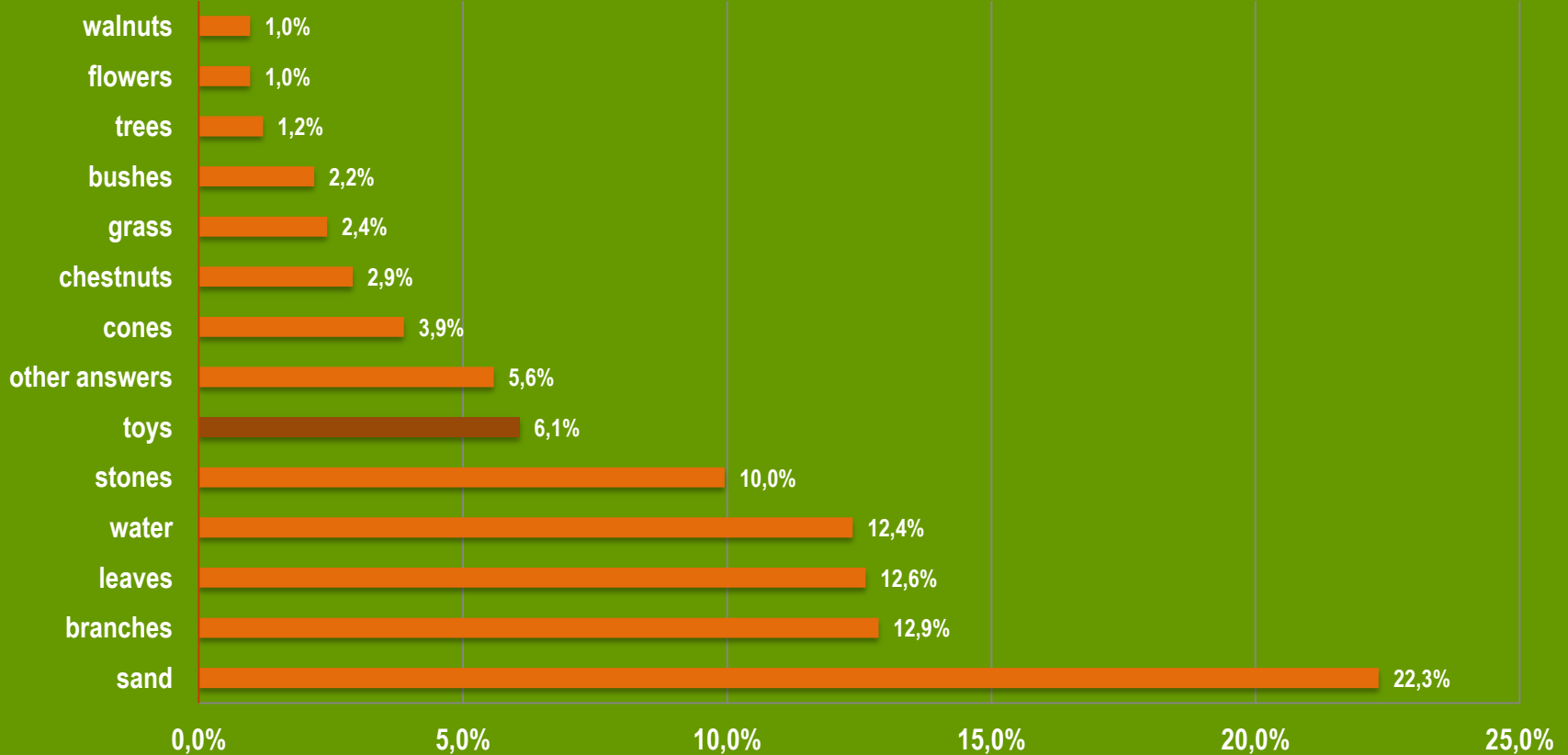
HURRAY FOR PARENTS!

Which problems did parents identify?



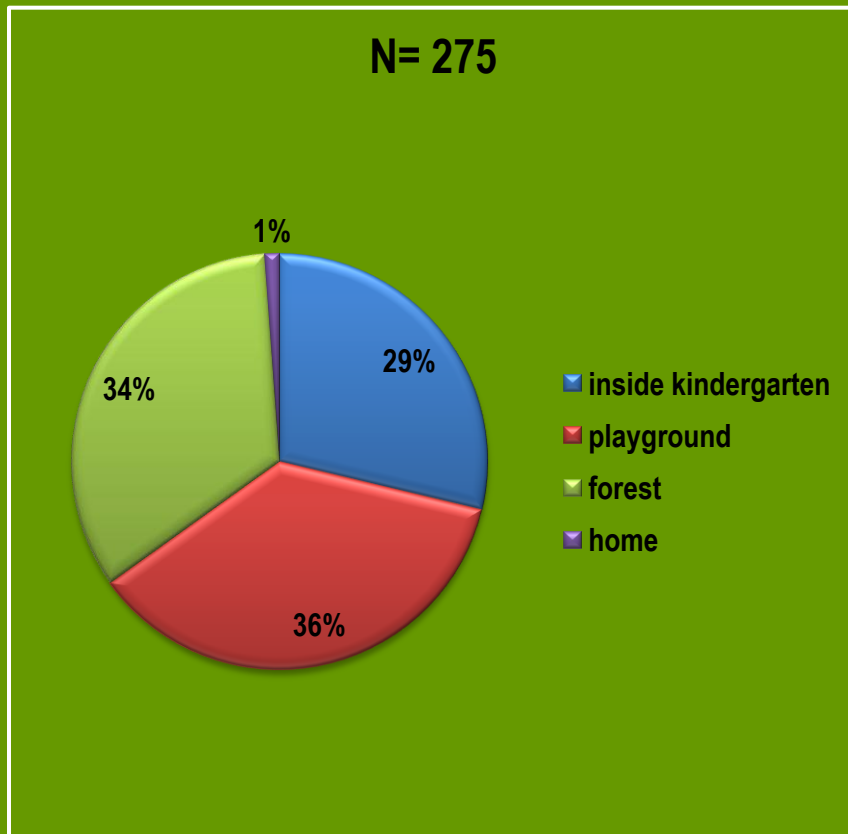
Children about playing in the natural environment?

N= 275

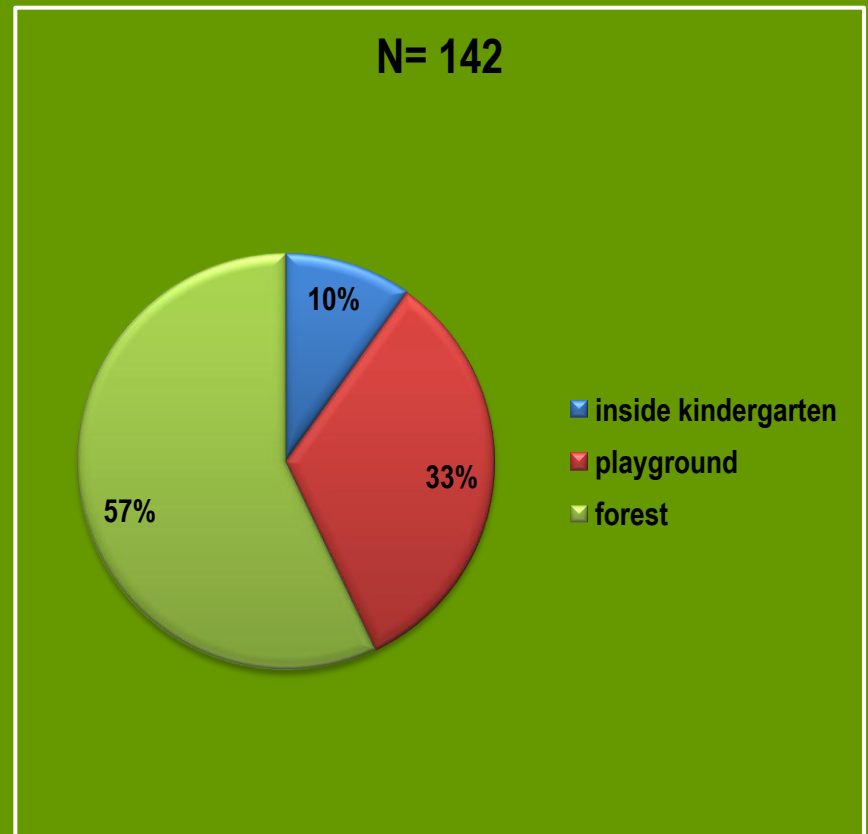


What did we ask children?

Children about playing
in the natural environment?



And after a one year of spending
a lot of time in the forest?



Kindergarten teachers about playing in the natural environment?

A photograph of three young girls in a forest. One girl in the foreground wears a pink cap with 'Barbie' and 'Steph' written on it, a plaid jacket, and a backpack. She is looking towards the other two girls. The girl behind her is smiling. The girl on the right is wearing a red jacket and holding a small object. They are all smiling and appear to be enjoying their time in the forest.

At the beginning there was fear and insecurity.

It the end there was only enthusiasm and today kindergarten teachers have the courage to lead the children into the forest.

What was beetwen?



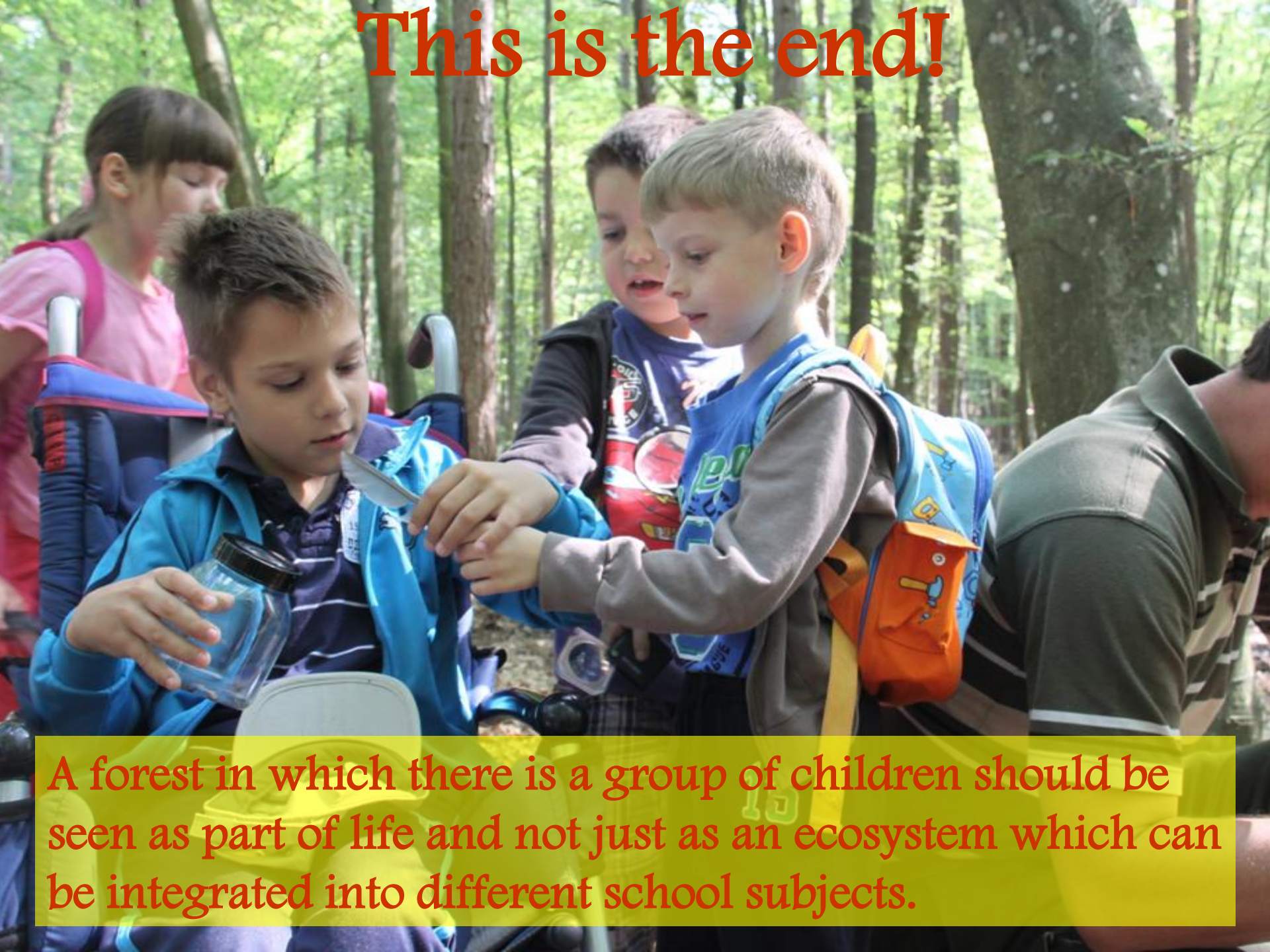
- ☺ Lectures were organized for educators about forest pedagogy and the methodology of teaching outdoors,
- ☺ we carried out many trips to the forest together with the children,
- ☺ we included parents, who were all well informed,
- ☺ we built trust between educators, principle and forest pedagogue.

Recommendations for the Forest pedagogue and Teachers



- ☺ Innovative approaches and be creative,
- ☺ you must be patient and calm teachers,
- ☺ you must correctly assess the child's actions.

This is the end!



A forest in which there is a group of children should be seen as part of life and not just as an ecosystem which can be integrated into different school subjects.