

LINCOLN LAB CHILDRENS CENTER, Lexington, Ma.

Project Landscape Architect w/consultation from Johansson Design Collaborative

Project Information: Renovation of this day-care yard transformed an existing traditional playground with swings and play structures into a natural play garden in which children can explore nature in an open-ended way.

Leading a series of workshops, we gathered information which helped to establish program goals and guide the design. With a focus on natural elements, inclusion of flexible spaces and fluid play opportunities children are provided myriad of opportunities to learn about sustainability and the environment.

Life-cycles of the trees and shrubs are followed throughout the changing seasons, cones are raked and flowers picked. Children can watch the local birds and butterflies feeding on the blooms of the perennials and wild flowers. An understanding of where food comes from is gained by planting and tending vegetable gardens and harvesting fruits and vegetables at the end of the season. By replenishing garden plants with water collected in rain barrels they learn about sustainability and water cycles. Children work cooperatively to plant seeds, water, build in the mud and sand area, and tend the perennial gardens. They learn about the world around them by active engagement of nature in the yard.

Year Constructed: Spring of 2008

Budget: \$220,000



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