

Chapter 5: The preschool

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 29: *Education, its purpose*



5: The preschool

ARTICLE 29 *Education, its purpose*

NAMI, 4 YEARS OLD SAYS:

“ My sisters and brothers Buywa, Taban and Bukala have left for school now. I am helping my mum to wash the dishes after breakfast. Today I am very happy because I am going to the preschool and many of my friends will be there.

I walk to preschool with my friend Poni. My mum takes us and on the way we practice carrying water on our heads. We have a plastic-bottle with water in it and we put it on our heads. It is quite hard to keep it there while walking.

There are two groups in the preschool, one with the young children and one with those who are older. Poni is six, so she is in the group with the older children. I am in the group with the young ones and my mum says that there are 20 in the group. There is a girl called Afia in my group and we play a lot together.

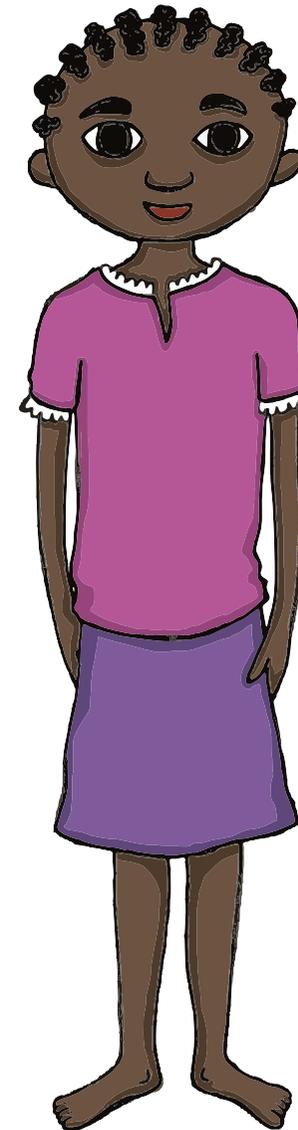
Our teacher Miss Charity welcomes us. We always start with a morning-song. Then Miss Charity says that we are going to practice the letters. She shows the letters on the poster and I learn the first letter in my name. It is N. We also practice all the letters by singing a song.

After the song it is time for a break. Then we play outside. What I like the most is a skipping rope, but today it does not work out too well. Afia wants the same rope as I and we start pulling in both directions. I am FURIOUS because I was the first one to get it. Afia pulls

and runs away with the rope and I get sad and start crying. Then Miss Charity comes and asks what happened. Afia says that she wanted the skipping-rope and took it, and I said that I was the first one to take it. Poni's teacher Miss Abelina shows us that there is a long rope that we can all jump at the same time. So we decide to play with the long-rope instead, because then many more can join in. I and Afia make friends again and everything is OK. It is actually much more fun to jump long-rope as everybody can join.

After the break we are going to have maths. Miss Charity shows a number. I don't recognise it, but Afia says it is the digit 5. We have been given some blocks and now we are to build a tower with them. We count: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. We build many towers with five blocks. Then we shall bring other things. It has to be five of the same kind. I bring five pebbles.

After that we sing a final song and sadly preschool is over for today. Poni's mother comes to walk us home.





PRESCHOOL

It is unusual to have preschools in South Sudan. With the knowledge about children's need for stimulation in early years, there has been a wish to start activities for children before school for a long time. In 2000 the first preparatory group was started at Lunjini School.

In 2012 a new preschool was started by Lui diocese. 20 women were trained during six days in April 2012. Jeannie Stevens, Blackmore Vale Deanery, England and Elsa Foisack, Lund Diocese, Sweden conducted the training. The Cathedral preschool has been run by the Mother's Union since May 2012 in new clay-built classroom next to the Cathedral. From the start 70 children were enrolled, each with a cup because they cannot share with people other than their family due to the fear of Nodding Disease. There are two groups, one for older children, 6-7 years old and one for younger children.

More play group teachers were trained in November 2012. Those teachers, including some men, who work in the villages outside Lui.

DAILY SCHEDULE

1. Gathering in a circle
2. Name-game. Everybody shall hear their name at least once and have the opportunity to say their name at least once.
3. Physical activities (balls, beanbags, jumping-ropes)
4. Drinking water-break. Every child has their own mug to drink from.
5. Stories and songs
6. Gathering in a circle. Final song

The time for the preschool is between 9.00 and 12.00.

CHILD CARE ALL DAY

In Lui there is no all day child care. There is a wish not to separate people in different age-groups and because of that there are no child care centres or homes for the elderly. It is an obligation for the family to care for the children and the elderly. Care is arranged between relatives and neighbours. Sometimes the children live for a long time with other adults than their parents, but usually other family members. Older children often look after their younger sisters and brothers.

CARRYING ON THE HEAD

In South Sudan women usually carry things on their heads. You can see them carrying all different things like bags of flour, water-containers and firewood. All children learn new things through copying adults. When the children play, you can see them pick up pebbles or other things from the ground and carry them on their head.

From the age of 7 or 8 girls help their mothers to fetch water. They get a small container or a water bottle to carry on the head with the support of a hand. The practice helps them learn to walk with a straight back. The neck-muscles are strengthened and get better and better in keeping the balance with the pot or the water container on the head, and after a while they can carry bigger and bigger things. From the age of 5 or 6 girls are quite good in balancing and don't need to support with the hand.

Sometimes women plait a circle of banana-leaves and put on the head under the container. This is called a 'Titi'. It makes the container more stable on the head. Once you have learnt to balance on the head you can always do it. It is like riding a bike. What you have learnt to do you never forget.





SUGGESTION 1
Conversation

CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION
Article 29 in the Child Rights Convention talks about the purpose of education for children. It is about the development of the child's personality, talents as well as mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. It is also about preparing the child for a responsible life in a free society, in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance etc.

.....
Talk with the children about how they get opportunities to practice and discover what they are good at.

BASIC FEELINGS
Nami is happy to go to preschool. What make you happy?

.....
Nami gets very angry with Afia. When do you get angry?



SUGGESTION 2
Prayers

BIBLE WORDS
Jesus and the children
(Mark 10: 13 - 16)

SONGS
Everyone in the whole wide world (CJP 333)

.....
Jesus loves the little children
(www.joyfullifesundayschool.com/Samples/SheetMusic/86282/JesusLovesChildren.pdf)

.....
There was one, there were two friends of Jesus (CAHON 895)

.....
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands
(www.makingmusicfun.net/html/f_printit_free_printable_sheet_music/if_youre_happy_leadsheet.htm)

PRAYER
God, we pray for all the children in the world. Let them grow up in safe environments, both at home and in preschool. Let all children get the opportunity to be children and the chance to play.
Amen



SUGGESTION 3
Games

BALLGAME
The children stand in a circle. One of them stands in the middle and throws a ball to the other one by one and counting loud: 1, 2, 3 etc.

JUMPING GAME
Stand in a circle and jump towards the middle and away from the middle following a leader.

FETCH THINGS
Play the game Nami and her friends do. Fetch 5 things of the same kind, pebbles, sticks, leaves etc. Try with different numbers.

SUGGESTION 4
Songs

Sing some of the songs from the Introduction.

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4. Greeting song, preschool, English



5. Closing song, preschool, English

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6. Yesu number one, English

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7. Aroboya Yesu, moru and English

.....
2. Children's song, in Moru and English

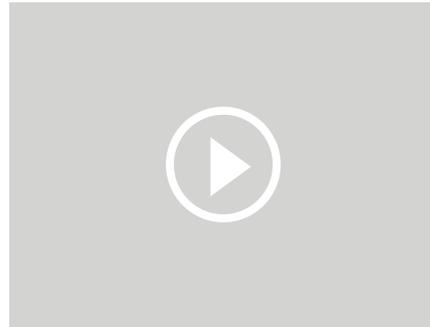
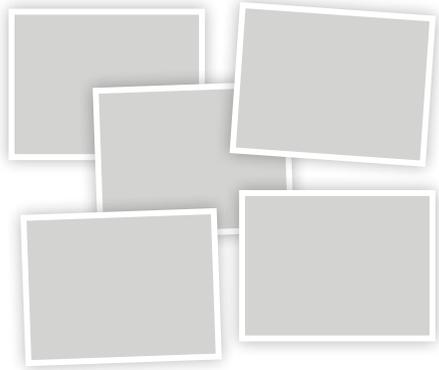
SUGGESTION 5
Relay

Try to carry things on your head. Use a beanbag to start. Walk from a cone to another and back again. You can make it into a relay if you divide the children into two teams.

SUGGESTION 6
Carry water

Try to carry a plastic-bottle with water on your head. Don't forget to put on the bottle-top!





PICTURES

- Outside the preschool
- Building with Lego
- Building towers
- Drawing in the sand
- Drawing in the sand 2
- Game in a circle
- Boll-game
- Carry water
- Children carry things on the head

VIDEO-CLIPS

- Cathedral Preschool, jumping game
- Ballgame, Lakamadi
- Jumping long rope
- SONGS 2, 4 and 5 (Introduction-chapter)

