

# Chapter 8: Handicraft

UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ARTICLE 31: *Rest and leisure*



# 8: Handicraft

ARTICLE 31 *Rest and leisure*

## **NAMI, 4 YEARS OLD SAYS:**

“ Every morning I go to the preschool together with my friend Poni. She is 6 years old and she always knows when it is time to leave from home. I always feel very happy when she comes to pick me up. We bring our cups, because if it gets very hot we can go to the water tub and drink water. My mum has said that we can only drink if we bring our own cup. If we drink from somebody else’s cup, we may get very ill. Poni’s teacher is called Abelina and she is there when we arrive. We are sweating because it is already very hot, so we sit down in the shade under a big tree. Then Poni takes a stick and starts drawing in the sand. She makes nice patterns and I try to do the same. After a while I start digging in the ground and manage to loosen some clay. Then I run to the water tub and fetch some water. I drink some and then I pour the water over the clay and start making small clay-balls. Then Miss Abelina comes up to us. She says that we should put the marbles in a place where no one can see them and tomorrow we can fetch them again. Then they will be hard and we can play with them and play a marble-game.

Now Miss Charity, who is my teacher and many of the children have arrived. We go into our classroom and preschool starts. We all sit on the floor on a big tarpaulin. First we sing a song and then we practice ABC. Miss Charity points to pictures and everybody says the letter after

her all together. I can say almost all the letters right now.

Today Miss Charity brings a big bag of beads. Each one of us gets a string and is offered to choose beads. I pick as many colours as I can find. Then we put the beads on the string and when you are ready Miss Charity comes and helps you tie the string together. Afia wants to have hers around her arm, I want my around my ankle. It is very pretty! Then we go outside and jump rope in the yard and it feels very funny when my string of beads swings around my ankle.

When I get home, I show my string of beads to my mum Oboywa. She thinks it is very nice. When my big sister Bukala comes home from school she gets very surprised that I have such a pretty string of beads. “Did you make it yourself? But where did you get the beads? I want one as well.” Then mum tells her that Miss Charity got the beads as a present and if Bukala wants beads we would have to pay for them. After dinner mum calls me and Bukala to come to her hut. She has taken out all her necklaces to show us. I didn’t know she had that many! Then she tells that the best one she has, was a present from our father Lubani. It was an engagement present. He gave it to her, when he asked her to marry him. Where do you think she got the other strings of beads?

I really like to sit with my mum when she

plaits baskets. If she has the time to do more than we need for ourselves, she calls people passing by, shows them the baskets and asks if they want to buy. They all say that her baskets are beautiful and then I get very proud of my mum. But most of the time they say that they don’t have money to buy. Then I see that my mum gets sad. I think that if she got one basket sold, then she could go to the market and buy beads, so that Bukala could make her own string of beads.

Everyone in my family likes to make things with their hands. Down by the market you see a lot of



things lying around, that people have thrown away. We children like to gather things that we can use to make toys and games. My grandma does embroidery on cloths that we use to cover plates and baskets of food to keep flies away, so that they don't make it dirty.

One day Lillibeth, my sister's friend came over to us and showed that she had learned to crochet. She was making a skirt for herself. She crochets with red, yellow and black yarn in stripes. I want to crochet one like that when I get older.



# Facts



## MAKING BASKETS

The Moru people have an old tradition plaiting baskets of straw. The baskets have a special shape with a square bottom continuing into a somewhat wider, round upper part. Often the baskets are decorated by using straw in different kinds or colours into pretty patterns. Sometimes you cut stripes of paper or plastic packages and weave them in while making the basket, to get more colourful decorations. Earlier these baskets were used for everything like carrying things, keeping things and preparing food. Nowadays you can buy plastic pots in the market and the production of baskets has diminished.

## STRINGS OF BEADS

It is quite common that both men, women and children wear strings of beads around the neck or the arm and also around the ankle. Sometimes you can see small children with a string of beads around their waist.

## MAKING PICTURES AND SCULPTURES

Paper is expensive and difficult to keep since the air is damp. But the children like to draw and enjoy making nice pictures and patterns in the sand on the ground. You can also see children practising writing letters and numbers in the sand.

By the river Yei there is nice soft clay in the ground and that is used to make different kinds of clay objects. It is also used at school in the CRE (Creative Education) lessons to make clay sculptures.

You can paint on the clay with water colours, water mixed with herb colours or coloured powder bought in the market. Since most of the houses are made of clay, many people paint nice pictures on the outside of the walls.

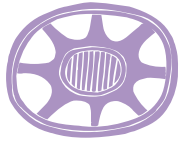
## TEXTILES

To make clothes, sewing machines with pedals are used, similar to those that were used in our country in the old days. You don't need electricity to make the needle work, but step back and forth on the pedal which is called a treadle. Some women have their own sewing machine, but usually you go to a dressmaker, who makes the clothes on her machine. First the dressmaker measures how much cloth is needed and then you have to go to the market and buy the cloth. It usually takes a couple of days and then you can come and fetch the garment.

Many ladies are also very clever in sewing by hand with needle and thread. Sometimes they do embroidery in beautiful patterns with flowers and other things on cloths. They are used to cover bread and food.

It is also quite usual to crochet. People use a wooden stick that anyone you can find and not a crochet hook. You make caps, hairnets and even clothes like shawls and skirts.

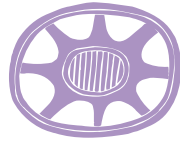




**SUGGESTION 1**  
*Conversation*

**CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION**  
Article 31 in the Child Rights Convention is about the child's right to rest and leisure and about how to engage the child in play and recreational activities and encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural artistic, recreational and leisure activities. In Lui it is common to wear beads and the children in the story make their own. Talk about why it is important for children to try different kinds of handicraft and arts common in your own culture. Also about how it is important to stimulate your fantasy and creativity.

**BASIC FEELINGS**  
Talk about the joy in creating things with your hands, to make your own marbles or necklace and to look at beautiful pictures and patterns; the sadness in not being able to do what you want, because you don't have the money to buy what you need.

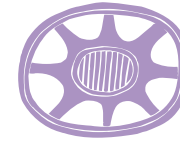


**SUGGESTION 2**  
*Prayers*

**BIBLE WORDS**  
Jeremiah in the potter's house (Jeremiah 18:1 - 4)  
.....  
Craftmanship (Exodus 31: 1-6) or (Exodus 35: 30 - 36)

**SÅNGFÖRSLAG:**  
God gave me fingers (KS2 474)  
.....  
Hands, fingers and thumbs (KS 93)  
.....  
In everything that I do (KS 169)  
.....  
Touch a finger (KS2 744)  
.....  
Who put the colours in the rainbow (CAHON 915)

**PRAYER**  
God, we pray for all that we can create with our hands. Thank you for all beautiful colours and patterns. Help us use our imagination to make things that can bring pleasure to many.  
Amen



**SUGGESTION 3**  
*Clay and marbles*

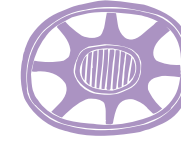
Make clay objects or clay bowls. Use natural clay, modelling clay or plasticine.  
.....  
Paint patterns and pictures on the clay objects.

**SUGGESTION 4**  
*Make necklaces and bracelets*

Make necklaces and bracelets of plastic beads in different colours.  
.....  
Plait bracelets with strings in different colours.

**SUGGESTION 5**  
*Crochet and embroidery*

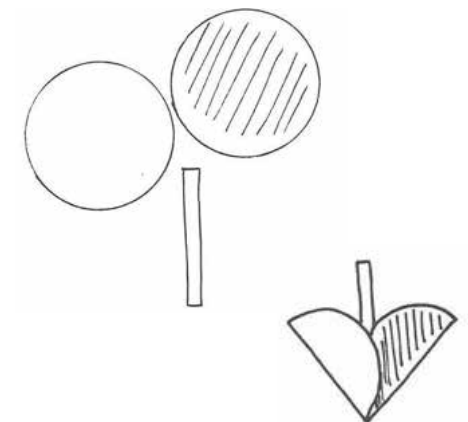
Invite a person who is good in crocheting or embroidering.  
.....  
Look at different objects with embroidery in different patterns.  
.....  
What is the difference between crochet and knitting?



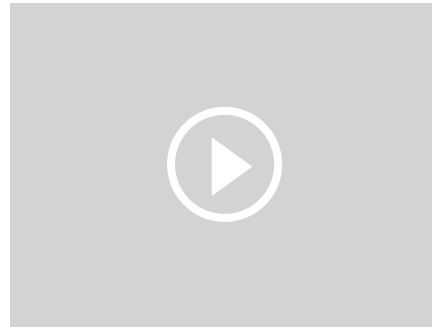
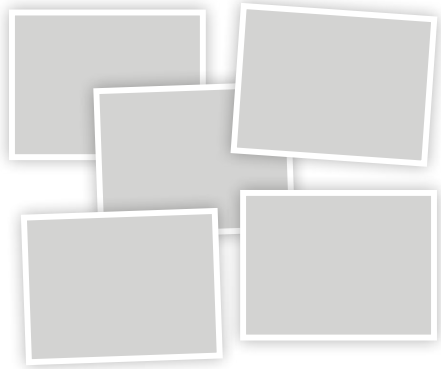
**SUGGESTION 6**  
*Making baskets*

Bring baskets made of different kinds of material like straw/grass, roots or wicker baskets and compare.

**A SIMPLE BASKET**  
Draw two circles on papers in two different colours. Cut out the circles and fold a middle line. Use glue to put them on each other like in the figure. Cut out a strip and glue it on for a handle.



# Resources



## PICTURES

Painting on clay house (3)

Basket making

Baskets (5)

Strings of beads (7)

Making necklaces

Crochet (4)

Crocheted cap (2)

Embroidery (5)

Sewing machine (2)

In the cloth shop

Drawing in the sand

Playing marbles (2)

## VIDEO-CLIPS

Plaiting baskets 1

Plaiting baskets 2

