

# African Bead Hanger with Paper Plates

## Supplies Needed

- Paper plates (one per child)
- Scissors
- Paint (bright colors: red, yellow, blue, green, orange)
- Paintbrushes or sponges
- Hole punch
- Yarn or string
- Pony beads or large plastic beads
- Optional: markers, glitter glue, stickers

## Step-by-Step Instructions

### 1. Prepare the Plate

- Give each child a precut paper plate.

### 2. Paint the Bead Circle

- Invite children to paint the ring using **bright African-inspired colors**.
- Encourage patterns: stripes, dots, triangles, or repeating colors.
- Let the plates dry for a few minutes.

### 3. Punch Holes Around the Edge

- Use a hole punch to make **6–10 holes** around the bottom half of the plate.
- These will be where the hanging beads attach.

### 4. Add Hanging Beads

- Cut pieces of yarn or string (6–8 inches long).
- Tie one piece of yarn through each hole.
- Let children string **3–6 beads** onto each piece of yarn.
- Tie a knot at the bottom so the beads don't fall off.

### 5. Add a Hanger

- Punch one hole at the top of the plate.
- Tie a loop of yarn so the craft can hang on a wall or door.

## 6. Optional: Add Meaning

You can invite children to choose bead colors that represent something:

- **Red** – courage
- **Blue** – water
- **Green** – hope
- **Yellow** – joy
- **White** – peace

Let them share what their colors mean.

### What This Craft Teaches

- African beadwork is beautiful and meaningful.
- Colors can tell stories.
- Children in Samburu and Turkana wear bead necklaces that show identity, family, and celebration.
- God made every culture creative and full of beauty.

### Short Reflection for Children

“Just like each bead is important, **every child is important to God**. When we put our colors together, we make something beautiful—just like God brings people together to make peace.”