

Adinkra Cloth Belts

Materials needed:

scissors

a cloth belt strip (twill tape available from upholstery fabric stores makes a good belt)

a ruler or straight edge

fine point black and color permanent markers

Adinkra stamp symbols

stamping pads in various colors

Procedures:

- 1) Adinkra cloth is created in the villages of Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal. It gets its name from the black dye made from the bark of the *badie* tree. Adinkra means *goodbye* because the cloth was originally worn by departing guests or at funeral ceremonies.
- 2) Measure the child's waist with a piece of twine or tape rule. Cut a length of cloth tape to fit each child. Make sure you leave some slack for the belt ends to hang down when tied.
- 3) Explain and demonstrate to the child how repeated lines are drawn on the belt by using a permanent marker and ruler. Ask the child to divide the cloth strip into squares or rectangles by enclosing each rectangle with pattern of straight lines. Have the child use the examples on the table or create a design of his or her own. **Tell the child to be sure to create squares or rectangles large enough to be stamped in at least once.**
- 4) After the child has 'cordoned off' the belt have him or her stamp the belts rectangle areas using the stamps provided.
- 5) Ask the child to allow the belt to dry for a few minutes before tying it around his or her waist. Show the child how to tie the belt using a simple over and under tie, pull tight and allow the slack in the ends to hang freely. Voila!

