

for children

hello

SYRIA

How do you say hello in Arabic?



marhaba

(Say "MAR-ha-bah")

My name is Haneen.

Age: 9

Lives in: Al Humaira, Syria

Since I was born, a war was going on in my country.

When I was little, I didn't understand what that meant. I just knew there were loud sounds that terrified me and made me cry. Later I learned the sounds were from shooting and airplane strikes.

Then, my family moved to this village where it is safe. I am in third grade and I have two sisters. After school, we go to a center for CFS (Child-Friendly Spaces, an MCC-supported project bringing children together for activities and games). I was 6 years old when I first came to the center. I come here, play, have fun and learn. We learn respect, politeness and courage.

We laugh a lot, especially when the teacher asks us funny questions and we answer her. We do plays and songs, like "Baby Shark." Then we eat a biscuit (a cookie) and we leave.

My favorite food: molokhia (a dark, leafy green vegetable like spinach often served with rice)

My favorite game: hide and seek

What I want to be: pediatrician

Grow a tree of hope

In Syria, making art with others is one way that young people are having fun together and healing after years of war. Here's an activity you can try at home with your family.

You'll need:

- A piece of posterboard or large sheet of paper
- Several colors of markers or trays of poster paint

Draw a tree trunk with some bare branches. Have each family member dip a hand in paint and place it on the poster to grow the leaves of the tree. Is that too messy? You can trace each other's hands, and then color them in with markers.

