

## Consider...

### A typical day for three-year-old Jiwan, in Biskundanda \*

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“Jiwan lives with his parents, his aunt Ambika, and the three older children of the household. On this particular morning, he wakes up at six, and goes outside to pee. He sings a song with this twelve-year-old brother, and plays catapult with his sisters, then asks his mother for food. While she breastfeeds him, she taps his head lovingly. Afterwards he plays chari with the sisters, and sings and dances with them, and talks to some of his friends, while his mother goes to the fields to work, and his brother goes to collect fodder.

But soon he is tired, and this time his aunt breastfeeds him until he falls asleep. When he wakes up half an hour later, it is already eleven o'clock. Although his aunt is nearby weaving, and can watch him, she knows that the older children won't let him come to harm. He plays chari with the sister again, and while they are dancing, he uses the plastic bucket as a drum, and hits it with a broom.

At one o'clock he is tired again, and he has another short nap inside the house where his aunt is already sleeping. When he wakes up, his brother gives him some mango and plays with him for a while. Then he goes to play with the other children. They pretend to cook, and Jiwan is the "father". But they get into an argument, and he bites his sister. His brother carries him off and gives him more mango to make him happy. Then he plays again with his sister and friends.

At 5:30 Jiwan's brother takes him to a neighbour's house, and they play, running and jumping, for a while. When he comes back, he sits near his aunt and shares some food with her. He starts to play with the sickle, digging the ground. Ambika tells him not to dig but he ignores her, and his aunt slaps him. He cries and continues to angrily dig in the same place. Then he runs off, and his sisters chase him. He shows them a button which he found on the ground and puts it inside his mouth.

Later in the evening, his mother comes home from the field. First, she breastfeeds his sister, then him. After talking to them for a while, she puts him to bed. She has her dinner at nine o'clock, and then sleeps herself” (Arnold et al., 2000, p.62).

\*Excerpt, used with permission, from:

Arnold, C., Bartlett, S., Hill, J., Khatiwada, C., & Sapkota, P. (2000). *Bringing up children in a changing world: Who's right? Whose rights: Conversations with families in Nepal*. Save the Children/UNICEF.

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