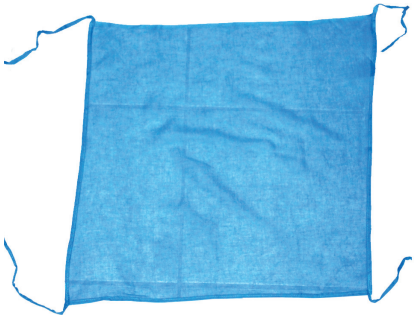


How Do You Tie a Patka?

Sikhs keep their hair long and wear a turban as a reminder of their commitment to Sikh values and to be easily identified as a Sikh. A patka, a smaller version of a Sikh turban, is usually worn by boys in pre-kindergarten to middle school before they begin wearing a turban. A Sikh child's patka and hair should always be treated respectfully, as they are considered articles of faith. If you are a teacher who is re-tying the patka on your student, please ask the child's permission before touching his patka or hair. Below are step-by-step instructions on how to tie a patka.

"Pssst! Sikh is pronounced with a short 'i' sound, as in the word 'sit'. The first 'a' in the word 'patka' is like the 'u' in 'hut', and the second 'a' is like the 'a' in pizza."



A patka is a square piece of cloth (usually cotton) that has four strings attached to the four corners of the cloth.



Step 1 - Before a patka can be tied on the boy's head, he must gather his hair and wrap it into a top knot centered, on top of the head.



Step 2 - Sometimes a rubber band or ribbon is used to secure the top knot so that it does not become loose.



Step 3 - Line up one edge of the square cloth on the child's forehead, about mid-way. When the patka is placed on the head, the front two strings are pulled down behind the ears.



Step 4 - Tie the two strings in a knot at the back of the head. To ensure that the cloth on the head lays flat, you can pull on the cloth under the knot so that it is taut. Make sure that the patka is not too tight/loose on his head before moving on to the next step.



Step 5 - Then, take one of the remaining corner strings, and wrap it around the top knot (on the opposite side).



Step 6 - You will need to wrap the string several times around the top knot, and then ask the child to hold the remaining string while you work on the other corner.



Step 7 - Take the last corner string and wrap it around the top knot several times like you did with the other corner.



Step 8 - You are now left with the remainder of the two strings which can be double knotted around the top knot.



Step 9 - The remaining string can be tucked inside the fold of a cloth.