

**ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS: CRAFTS FOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
DECORATION AND SUSTAINABILITY (PRODUCTION OF PORTABLE TRAVEL
BABY CRIB AND TEDDY BEAR**

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ABSTRACT

Entrepreneurship has been described as the “capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with its risks to make a profit. It also captures innovative activities on the part of established firms, in addition to similar activities on the part of new businesses. Travel baby crib are softer, less expensive, gives comfort to the baby and are easy to carry about, also teddy bear are softer, it can be given as a gift or bought for comfort. They are used both indoors and outside the home. This write up therefore, explains the concept of teddy bear and travel cot etc. In addition, it discloses the materials, procedures as well as the benefits of the items. The educational implication also includes to facilitate the teaching and learning processes. It further recommends that industrial training fund should set up a department of skill training and development by the Federal Ministry of Education in every tertiary educational institution, ensuring that more practical work is introduced to complement theory in institutions of learning so as to provide skilled labour for the economy. Also, the procedures of production of these items should be incorporated into the Home Economics curriculum at secondary and mostly tertiary levels of education.

KEYWORDS: Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneur, Travel baby crib and Teddy bear.

INTRODUCTION

A travel cot is a bed for use by a baby or young child that is collapses or folds into a bag for easy carriage. Travel crib is typically much lighter than a standard cot, with soft sides to provide comfort to the baby when sleeping.

An infant bed (commonly called a cot in British English, and in American English, a crib or cradle, or far less commonly, stock) is a small bed especially for infants and very young children. Infant beds are a historically recent development intended to contain a child capable of standing. The cage-like design of infant beds restricts the child to the bed. Between one and two years of age, children are able to climb out and are moved to a toddler bed to prevent an injurious fall while escaping the bed.

Recently, travel cot is a most popular and convenient bed used because of its easy carriage, less expensive, more durable and the soft comfort it gives different from the standard cot which is made with iron or wood.

A teddy bear is a stuffed toy in the form of a bear. Developed apparently simultaneously by toymakers Morris Michtom in the U.S. and Richard Steiff under his Aunt Margarete Steiff's company in Germany in the early years of the 20th century, and named after President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, the teddy bear became a popular children's toy, celebrated in story, song and film. Since the creation of the first teddy bears which sought to imitate the form or real bear cub, "teddies" have greatly varied in form, style, color and material. They have become collector's items, with older and rarer teddies appearing at public auctions. Teddy bears are among the most popular gifts for children and are often given to adults to signify affection, congratulations or sympathy.

Early teddy bears were made to look like real bears, with extended snouts and beady eyes. Modern teddy bears tend to have larger eyes and foreheads and smaller noses, baby like features intended to enhance the toy's "cuteness". Some teddy bears are also designed to represent different species, such as polar bears and brown bears, as well as pandas and koalas. While early teddy bears were covered in tawny mohair fur, modern teddy bears are manufactured in a wide variety of commercial available fabrics, most commonly synthetic fur, but also velour, denim, cotton, satin and canvas. This work focuses on:

- Explaining concepts such as entrepreneurship, entrepreneur, travel cot and teddy bear etc.
- The procedures involved in the production of teddy bear and travel baby crib
- Stating the educational implications.

Concept of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship refers to the concept of developing and managing a business venture in order to gain profit by taking several risks in the corporate world. Simply put, entrepreneurship is the willingness to start a new business. Entrepreneurship has played a vital role in the economic development of the expanding global marketplace.

Entrepreneurship has been described as the "capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks to make a profit. While definitions of entrepreneurship typically focus on the launching and running of businesses, due to the high risks involved in launching a start-up, a significant proportion of start-up businesses have to close due to "lack of funding, bad business decisions, an economic crisis, lack of market demand, or a combination of all of these, Belicove (2012).

An entrepreneur is someone who is willing to work for himself and by himself. Entrepreneur is an entity which has the ability to find and act upon opportunities to translate inventions or technologies into products and services: "the entrepreneur is able to recognize the commercial potential of the invention and organize the capital, talent and other resources that turn an invention into a commercially viable innovation, (Audretsch 2012).

Concept of Travel Cot

A travel cot is a portable, lightweight, and foldable bed designed for infants and young children, particularly for use during travel, vacations, or temporary accommodation away from home. It provides a safe and comfortable sleeping environment for babies and toddlers when a standard household cot is unavailable. Travel cots are typically constructed with collapsible frames, breathable mesh sides, and a removable mattress, making them easy to transport, assemble, and store (Choice, 2023). They are widely used by parents and caregivers because of their convenience, portability, and ability to ensure continuity in a child's sleeping routine while away from home.

According to recent child-care and parenting literature, travel cots are designed to combine safety, comfort, and mobility. Most modern travel cots feature sturdy frames and ventilated sides that enhance airflow and visibility, thereby reducing the risk of overheating while allowing parents to monitor their children easily. In addition, many travel cots can serve multiple purposes, functioning as playpens or temporary resting spaces for infants and toddlers (MadeForMums, 2026). Their lightweight design and compact folding mechanism make them suitable for family trips, overnight visits, and other travel-related activities.

Travel cots contribute to child safety by providing a designated sleeping area that meets recommended infant sleep guidelines. Regulatory agencies emphasize that portable folding cots should be used according to manufacturer instructions and safety standards to minimize risks associated with falls, suffocation, or entrapment (ACCC, 2026). As a result, travel cots have become an essential childcare product for modern families seeking a practical and secure sleeping solution for young children during travel and temporary stays away from home.

Types of Travel Cot

Standard travel cot: This is the usual type of travel cot with collapsible frame and removable mattress. It usually has a rectangular shape, but different styles are now being developed. This can be used as a travel cot and a playpen and is suitable for babies from birth until 6.5kg (appropriately 3 years old). Though a standard travel cot is usually quite cumbersome to carry, lightweight travel cots have now been designed ideal for camping, hiking or taking on airplanes when weight is at a premium.

Pop-up Travel Cot: This is a much smaller version of the travel cot which is suitable from birth until the baby can support themselves on their hands and knees. A pop-up travel cot is constructed in the same manner as a pop up tent which immediately ‘pops up’ when it is removed from its bag and is folded down to a compact size about the size of a large shopping bag. A pop-up travel cot is easier to construct and is more portable as it is lighter and more flexible than other models, but is only for very young babies.

Bassinet Travel Cot: A bassinet travel cot is a standard travel cot with a bassinet included for a smaller baby. Much like the pop-up travel cot, the bassinet is smaller and softer and is designed for new babies; however when the baby can support himself on his hands and feet, parents can remove the bassinet and use the travel cot as they would a standard travel cot, without having to buy a new travel cot. Bassinet travel cots can come with added extras including a vibrating mattress, lights and music, which are intended to support the baby in its efforts to sleep.

Material for Baby Crib

Fur material
Plain material
2 inches foam
½ inch foam
Thread
Magic gum
Maco board
Gum
Zipper

Scissor

Art blade or knife

Method

1. Cut the maco board and ½ inch foam at same length, put gum on the maco board and leave to dry to enable it to stick well to the foam.



2. Cut the 2 inches foam to the preferable length and width but not less than 80 by 5, then add gum to the ends and set aside.



3. Cut the fur material by placing it on fold, add 2 inches to the width to make it 12 and 1 inch to the length to make it 82 and cut, then join both ends together using sew machine.



4. Measure the plain and fur materials and 1 inch round of ease and sewing allowance and cut



5. Measure the plain material and add 1 inch or ½ inch sew allowance and set aside.

Joining Process

1. Join the ½ inch foam with the maco board which has gum on it and be sure that it has totally gum and set aside.



2. Gum the 2 inches foam by their ends together and put the ready joined fur material on the body, make it fit into the foam very well, then sew the fur material to cover the foam at the end. (Make sure it is tight and firm), then join the plain fabric at the base.



3. Sew the fur and plain fabric together. Keep one opening for the zip and attach the zip to it then put the maco board into it and zip. The baby crib is ready.
4. Make a baby pillow and put fiber crumbs inside the pillow
5. Prepare a bag for the baby crib since it is a portal travel cot.

Concept of a Teddy Bear

A teddy bear is a stuffed toy in the form of a bear. Since the creation of the first teddy bears which sought to imitate the form of real bear cubs, “teddies” have greatly varied in form, style, color and material. They have become collector’s items, with older and rarer teddies appearing at public functions. Teddy bears are among the most popular gifts for children and are often given to adults to signify affection, congratulations or sympathy. Modern teddy bears are manufactured in a wide variety of commercially available fabrics, most commonly synthetic fur, but also velvet, denim, cotton, satin and canvas.

Materials for Teddy Bear

Fur material
Plain material
Eyes or black material
Zip
Thread
Fiber

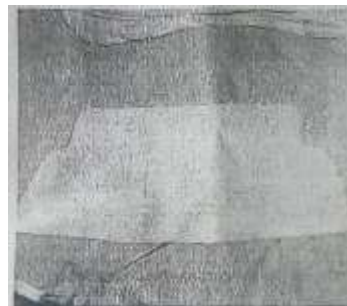
Scissor

Cutting method

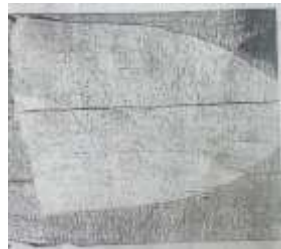
1. The front 23 inches for length and 16 inches for the width and cut, measure arm hole by 5 inches and cut, below the length measurement, measure 6 inches and split it into two. Then set aside.



2. The back measure and cut 11 by 16 inches of the down part, below the down part measure 6 inches at the center and split into two, then measure and cut 13 by 17 inches for the upper part, and cut it into two of the zipper allowance, also make the back arm hole.



3. For the hand measure 11 by 4 inches place on fold.
4. For the head, make half a circle and cut a little from the middle, do the same to the white fabric and cut a black round shape for the center and also for the eyes.



5. Cut the shape of the ear for both white and fur fabric and also round shape for the leg.

Joining and Finishing Method

- 1) Add the zip to the back and sew, then join the two set of black part together and sew.



- 2) Join the front and back fabric together and sew it, then sew the down split to form a trouser pattern.



- 3) Sew the white round piece of fabric to form the leg.



- 4) Join the hand together and join it to the already prepared body.
- 5) Join all pieces of the fabric to form the head starting from the stuffed ear, to the nose or beak part before joining the back of the head and finally join the head to the main body to form a full teddy bear.



6) Stuff the teddy bear with fiber crumbs



PRODUCTION BENEFIT FOR TEDDY BEAR AND BABY CRIBS/COTS

Comfort: These items are often comfortable for it different purposes. They are soft and smooth and give good feeling to the body.

Health: For the baby crib, it is made of 100% natural materials, they eliminate the risk of developing allergic reactions and keep the infant save from any communicable disease.

Variety: You can find various types of baby crib and even adults camping cribs or tent with different colors, designs and textures. Also the teddy bear are also of different types, size, colour, design and texture including shape.

Income: People who are equipped with the skills can use it as a source of generating incoming for producing quality products, durable and affordable products and sending them into the market for sale, (Ramoglou 2015).

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

This work has the accurate information for the production of travel baby crib and teddy bear. The entrepreneurial skills for school student, youth and teachers and the steps involved in the production can be incorporated into the curriculum of home economics at secondary and mainly tertiary levels of education. It will not only facilitate the teaching and learning process but will enable the student's exhibit the objectives expected towards graduation. This product has great job opportunities because the items are relevant to the society which will generate greater income and reduce unemployment. Craftsmanship for students in Home

Economics and Art related disciplines. The youth can take advantage of production of these products as a means of generating income.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the production of baby crib and teddy bear could serve as a source of entrepreneurship, skill development, income generation and job creation for all levels of youth in and out of school. This skill also has the propensity to put the learning youth population who are unemployed out of the street to create a self-reliance, employment and income to them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of this work:

1. The procedures of production of the product should be incorporated into the Home Economics curriculum at secondary and mostly tertiary levels of education.
2. Teachers and lecturers of Home Economics should adopt the procedures for proper training of their students.
3. Training equipment, materials, methods and books should be provided by schools for student offering Home Economics in order to help them acquire this skills.
4. Industrial training fund should set up a department of skill training and development by the Federal Ministry of Education in every tertiary educational institution, ensuring that more practical work is introduced to complement theory in institutions of learning so as to provide skilled labour for the economy.
5. International vocational training center should establish skill acquisition center in every nook and cranny of the country to make the programme accessible to the youth.
6. The recruitment of competent and experienced craftsmen and women as instructors to make these programmes more viable.

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