



Thanks for your help on these – you can hand them in to Pattie Longenecker in the Volunteer Office at Hbg. Hosp., or any other PinnacleHealth Volunteer Office, when completed – be sure to put your name with them, so we can recognize you for your efforts ☺. We always need these hats, as we have more than 3500 babies a year! Also, sometimes we have yarn donated, so check in the Volunteer Office if you need yarn to make these caps.

KNITTING INSTRUCTIONS – BABY CAPS

1. Use any 3-ply baby yarn ("Sport weight" is my favorite - nice and easy to work with). Some yarn labels don't list the 'ply', so just take the end of the yarn, and separate the pieces. If there are 3, it's 3-ply yarn! You can use "fingering" yarn, but it is finer, and the hat will be thinner. Please do not use 4-ply yarn.
2. No wool content (allergies) or all cotton (stretches out) - 100% acrylic is best. "Feel" the yarn before you buy – definitely, some are softer!
3. Pastels are preferred, but other colors are ok, too. Colors in the skein will be slightly darker in the finished project.
4. Stitch options are in parentheses (). Babies come in all sizes, and some knit tighter, or looser, so any combination will fit one little dear baby's head ☺.

12" or smaller knitting needles, size 6 or 7 (you can use longer ones, but these are more manageable for the number of stitches you have)

OR

4 5"-6" double-pointed needles, size 6 or 7 (or circular, but 12" length only), (these will give you a hat with no seam)

Yarn (Tapestry) Needles (set of 2) (plastic)

Sm. Pair of scissors (the folding ones are great for your knitting bag).

Wash your hands each time before knitting. This keeps the yarn clean ☺

Cast on 64 (68) (72 for fingering yarn) stitches

Row 1: Knit 2, Purl 2, (K2, P2) across row.

Row 2: Knit 2, Purl 2, (K2, P2) across row. This creates the ribbing in the hat, which hugs the head, and makes it fit well.

Continue rows 1 & 2 until you have about 6½" - 7", then decrease as follows -

Decrease rows:

Row 1: Knit 2 together, across row.

Row 2: Purl 2 together, across row.

Continue rows 1 & 2 until you have about 7 stitches left.

Cut yarn, leaving about 15". To complete hat, thread tapestry needle with cut end of yarn, thread each of the remaining stitches from the knitting needle onto the tapestry needle, and pull tightly. Tack with several stitches and knot on the wrong side (there should be no hole in the top of the hat). (If you are using double-pointed or circular needles, you're done, except to thread your starting yarn along the bottom edge of hat and knot! If not, continue.....) Then, put the right sides of the side seams of the hat together (you'll have to look at your decreasing rows to find the right and wrong side – right side will be smooth), and continue with an overcast stitch down the seam, to the bottom edge of the hat (keep checking as you sew to be sure the bottom edges will come together). Take several stitches to hold bottom together securely, and take needle back up through the seam about 1½" (this keeps the loose thread from hanging out the bottom of the hat), take several more stitches, knot tightly, and cut off (this conceals the end of the yarn beyond the border of the hat, which you do not want to show when the bottom edge is turned up). Turn hat to right side, and turn up brim about an inch.

You can be as creative as you like with these hats!! Once you have at least 1½" of ribbing (either K2, P2, or K1, P1) to start, you can do any pattern you wish. And, don't be afraid to vary slightly the number of stitches you begin with (increase or decrease 4 stitches – this is the ribbing pattern). The above pattern is for an average size baby, but remember, babies come in all sizes, from our tiny 4-pounders to our occasional 10-pounders!

No buttons, bows, or poms on the hats, please! (choking hazard). Please call or email if you have any questions.