

## TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES GUIDELINES

We are still receiving completed items that aren't quite the right size or made from inappropriate materials. We created our guidelines to help ensure that our items are useful and practical for the babies. We periodically request feedback from our facilities and then make changes based on what is most helpful to the recipients. Currently we are having trouble ordering some of our normal supplies (i.e.: backing, baby yarn, and fleece). Therefore, we are stressing even more that our volunteers follow our guidelines for the items we make so that we do not waste our supplies by making something that we cannot donate.

We have compiled this summary of our guidelines for certain items that we make. Please take the time to read them and PLEASE follow them. If we receive items that do not meet these guidelines and are not able to be donated, we will attempt to repurpose them, but this takes up more valuable time a volunteer could be using to do something else. We value each and every volunteer, but our ultimate goal is to serve "our" babies. Therefore, we want to make sure everything we provide is something that will be a blessing to a parent and their child. If you need feedback on an item you make, you may indicate that on our new "Volunteer slip" described in the next section. We encourage you to print this page and keep it for future reference.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

- wash all finished items (wash burial afghans, but all other memorial/burial items do not need to be washed)
- check items for quality (rips in seams, threads not woven in, stains after washing, correct size/materials, etc) and fix before turning in
- do not use pins to attach sets together (put them in one bag)

**QUILT Material:** quilt top and backing should be cotton or cotton blends (Cotton is preferred, but flannel may be used as well)

**Size:** Approximately 36" X 45" or 36" X 36". Anything smaller is not practical. Quilts can be slightly larger and still useable.

**Labels:** Sew labels onto quilt tops about 6" from the corner. If sewing a quilt tag on a finished quilt, they can be sewn anywhere near the corner.

**Finishing:** Quilts can be machine topstitch or hand tied. Please tie quilts using crochet cotton with each tie 6-8" apart (about the hand length) and trim to ½" in length. Make sure to tie through all layers and tie them tightly with a double knot. Ties should line up in a straight line or have a consistent pattern throughout the quilt.

**Washing:** Please wash finished quilts using a color catcher (or several) so darker colors do not bleed. Check washed quilts for loose threads, ripped seams, stains, pins, etc.

### **AFGHANS: NEWBORN SIZE**

**Material:** Any yarn except wool; any colors as long as it is baby friendly.

**Size:** Approximately 30" X 30" or 36" X 36" squares. May be slightly larger as long as width and length are proportional. Do not add ribbons or other embellishments.

**Finishing:** Make sure all loose ends are woven in completely after washing

## **AFGHANS: INFANT LOSS**

**Material:** Baby yarn ONLY, in white, solid pastel colors (except yellow) or variegated pastels colors. NOTE: yellow makes babies looked jaundiced so we avoid that color.

**Size:** 12" X 12", 16 X 16", or 20" X 20" **square only**

## **RECEIVING BLANKETS (FLANNEL)**

**Size:** When using a bolt of fabric, cut off about a 9 ½" strip on the side with the selvage and rip down the length of the fabric. The remaining piece of fabric should be about 29-30" wide. Square off the piece of fabric and cut the blankets.

**Finishing:** Blankets should be SERGED and then weave in loose ends.

## **BIBS/BURPS**

Using the 9 ½" strip of flannel, put two layers of flannel with right sides together. If the fabric is directional, make sure both layers are facing the same direction. Trace bib/burp on wrong side of fabric using a WASHABLE marker.

Sew on the lines leaving an opening to turn. Turn and topstitch around edges closing the opening as you go. Wash before turning in and snaps can be added later.

## **NEWBORN SLEEP SACS: FLEECE**

Sacs can be sewn or serged together. The openings of the arm and neck should be serged on the edge or you can sew a decorative stitch on the edge instead.

Front opening should be turned under and sewn down so that there is a flat strip where snaps can be put. The front of the sac should be sewn together about 4-6" from the bottom.

## **NEWBORN HATS: FLEECE, KNIT FABRIC, KNITTED, CROCHETED**

**Materials:** fleece, knit fabric, or BABY or soft yarn; any color as long as it is baby friendly

**Size:** Both fists should fit comfortable into the hat and then there should be enough stretch that hat will fit on baby's head. Length should be at least 6" long. No pom poms.

## **NEWBORN BOOTIES: FLEECE, KNIT FABRIC, KNITTED, CROCHETED**

**Materials:** fleece, knit fabric, or BABY or soft yarn; any color as long as it is baby friendly.

**Size:** Sole should be about 3 ½" long. Circumference around ankle should be about 3" around and at least 1 ½" tall.