

The Perfect Knit Preemie Cap

Materials: soft baby or sport weight yarn, any pastel color or pastel ombre. Never use wool as some infants may be allergic.

Needles: size 4 and 6

This is a rib pattern which will be visible after 3 to 4 rows.

Sizes: Extra small: 29 stitches x 3-1/2 inch long before decrease

Small: 33 stitches x 4-inches long before decrease

Medium: 37 stitches x 4-1/2 inches long before decrease

Large: 41 stitches x 5 inches long before decrease

Row 1: With size 6 needles, loosely cast on 29 (33, 27, 41) stitches.

Row 2: Knit 2 Pearl 2 across row, ending with Knit 1

Row 3: Change to size 4 needles, K2, P2 across, ending K1

Continue in this manner until piece measures 3-1/2(4, 4-1/2,5) inches.

First Decrease Row: K3, K2 together across. P1 row

Next Decrease Row: K2, K2 together across. P1 row

Final Decrease Row: K1, K2 together across. P1 row

- Cut yarn leaving about a 12-inch, thread onto yarn needle. Thread through remaining stitches and pull up tightly.
- Sew seam from bottom and knot off well with piece of yarn used to gather top
- Cut ends to 3/4-inch.
- Add pompom if desired.

Because their preemie hats keep their shape so well, they can be turned up and used on tiny babies. They then stretch as the little head grows and the cuff can then be adjusted.

This rib pattern can be used for any size hat, for children or adults, using larger needles and worsted weight yarn, increasing number of stitches and length of pieces as needed. Always be sure to cast on a multiple of 4 stitches, plus 1 and work in rows in K2 P2 until decrease rows so the unique ribbing will appear. These hats though very stretchy, hold their shape well.

Original pattern by Jane Bonning using measurements found in Carewear Publications.

This pattern may be duplicated and shared.