

# Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

## **ADDITIONAL BLANKET GUIDELINES, SUGGESTIONS, REQUESTS**

Thank you all so much, the quality and workmanship of the blankets I receive are wonderful. We always get oohs and aahs when we deliver and the children are so happy for their lovely gift.

We are now delivering to a larger number of Neonatal Intensive Care Units. Please help by periodically making a small blanket. The NICUs request blankets that are about 30" x 36" to cover the cribs, or to keep the baby warm outside of the crib. Mary of Englewood Hospital NICU tells me that having the blankets is not only a comfort to the parents, but helps with the infants' recovery. They can be taken out of the crib sooner because they can be kept warm with our blankets.

Also, be careful of blanket proportions. Except for newborns or very small children, blankets should never be any narrower than 40". If you are tying fleece, it is best to purchase at least 1 ½ yards of fabric. That way the width and length after tying are in proportion.

## **COLORS**

**Boys! Boys! Boys!** Please try to use yarn and fabrics that are suitable for both sexes. We always seem to run short on blankets for boys. Remember that many times a girl will choose a blanket we think is in boy colors, leaving us struggling to find suitable boy blankets. While at Hackensack Hospital we visited a little girl in Pediatric ICU. She said her favorite color was pink, but rejected every pink blanket we had and finally chose a Red and Black Checkerboard. Go figure!

Avoid a lot of beige, tan and brown, particularly in smaller blankets, they may look beautiful, but children don't seem to be interested, they like the bright colors.

## **FLEECE**

**Please, no Double Fleece.** They are very heavy and only usable during the coldest months of the year. Single fleece is quite warm, and you get more bang for your buck if you don't double it.

Before tying or binding fleece make sure to trim off the selvage. For those unfamiliar with fabric, the selvage on fleece is usually a little rolled edge along both sides of the length of fabric. It usually is not as true in color as

the rest of the fleece and sometimes even includes a white border. Also remember to trim any uneven sides.

When tying fleece, cut about a ¾ inch wide fringe between 4 and 6 inches long. Most people tie all four sides of the blanket, but it is acceptable to tie only two sides. Typically, when tying only two sides, the two shorter sides are tied and the two longer sides are left as straight edges.

## **KNITTED OR CROCHETED BLANKETS**

### **Please hide all your ends!**

When joining yarn to change colors or add a new skein, please leave tails on your knot and weave the tails into the body of the blanket. If you just make a tiny knot and trim very close, the knot can come undone in the wash and the blanket will unravel.

If you are using a very simple knitted pattern, it may be easiest to tie in a new skein of yarn at the edge of the blanket rather than in the middle. The knot and its tails will be less noticeable along the edge, and will be hidden completely if you add a crocheted border.

## **WASHING**

It is not necessary to wash your blankets before delivering them to me. However, if you do wash the blankets for whatever reason, please avoid any strong scented detergents. They may smell very nice to you, but sometimes the strong scents are unpleasant to children who are ill.

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