



# Ollie the Octopus

Ollie, the knitted octopus for preemies

Research from Denmark has found that preemie babies enjoy holding the tentacles of these octopus toys which resemble the feel of the umbilical cord.

It appears that the babies are soothed by this activity and the nursing team at The Simpson Neonatal Unit would like some for the babies in their care.

It is very important that the octopus toys are **knitted in a smoke and pet free environment** and that **newly purchased acrylic or cotton yarn is used**. They must be filled with **new polyester stuffing** and the **tentacles must be sewn on very securely**.

Please put each octopus in a sealed plastic bag and mail them to our **PO Box** and **NOT to the Unit** as they will not be accepted by the staff. Please also **do not hand them** to the reception desk or put them in internal mail as we have no access to this service.

## Requirements

Please use new yarn and 100% polyester filling.

While we appreciate that knitters have different abilities and as these are gifts for babies and families who have gone through so much, we would appreciate a high quality of knitting and sewing up.

All sewing **MUST** be fastened securely.

## Post to us

Please enclose with your package your name, email address and/or home address with the quantity made. This will allow us to contact you with our thanks:

Simpsons Special Care Babies  
PO Box 12258  
North West DO  
Comely Bank Road  
Edinburgh EH4 1YB

## Ollie the Octopus

### Materials

Acrylic DK or cotton DK yarn

Polyester stuffing

3.75mm knitting needles - the knitting has to be tight and without holes for tiny fingers. Please check and reduce needle size if you are a loose knitter.

Embroidery floss for facial features

### What to do:

#### How to make the body

Cast on 9 sts

Row 1 and alt rows purl

Row 2 Increase in every stitch (18 sts)

Row 4 \*K1, increase in next stitch, repeat from \* to end (27sts)

Row 6 \*K2, increase in next stitch, repeat from \* to end (36sts)

Row 8 \*K3, increase in next stitch, repeat from \* to end (45sts)

Row 9 Purl

Rows 10 to 17 Work 8 rows in stocking stitch

Row 18 \*K3, slip 1, K1, pass slip stitch over, repeat from \* to end (36sts)

Row 20 \*K2, slip 1, K1, PSSO, repeat from \* to end (27sts)

Row 22 \*K1, slip 1, PSSO, repeat from \* to end (18sts)

Row 24 \*K 2 tog, repeat from \* to end (9sts)

Draw up stitches and sew back seam. Do not finish off

#### How to make the 8 tentacles

Cast on 40 stitches

Knit into the front and back of every stitch (80 sts)

Cast off

#### How to make up

Stuff the head and embroider on the eyes and smiley mouth

Sew together the tentacles, push into the cast on edge of body and fasten very securely

Place in a sealed plastic bag and mail to our PO Box, enclosing your name and email address or postal address.