



Ollie the Octopus

Ollie, the crochet 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 **you crochet 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

What to do:

UK terminology used throughout

Using DK yarn and a 3mm crochet hook (or hook size to give a nice, close finish). Work in continuous rounds using a stitch marker as follows:

R1: 6 dc into magic loop (6st)

R2: 2 dc in each stitch around (12st)

R3: *1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st. Repeat from * around (18st)

R4: *1 dc in next 2st, 2 dc in next st. Repeat from * around (24st)

R5: *1 dc in next 3st, 2 dc in next st. Repeat from * around (30st)

R6: *1 dc in next 4st, 2 dc in next st. Repeat from * around (36st)

R7-14: Work 1 dc in each st around (36st)

R15: *1 dc in next 4st, dc2tog. Repeat from * around (30st)

R16: 1 dc in each st around (30st)

R17: *1 dc in next 3st, dc2tog. Repeat from * around (24st)

R18: 1 dc in each st around (24st)

R19: *1 dc in next 2st, dc2tog. Repeat from * around (18st)

R20: 1 dc in next 7st, dc2tog. Repeat once (16st)

Tentacles (make 8)

Chain 45. Work 2 dc into 2nd chain from hook, 3 dc in next chain. Work back along the chains to the body working 2 dc and 3 dc in each chain alternately. This gives a nice curly tentacle. Ss into each of next 2 st.

Repeat around bottom of body to make a total of 8 tentacles. Fasten off.

Bottom

R1: 6 dc into magic loop (6st)

R2: 2 dc in each stitch around (12st)

R3: *1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st. Repeat from * around (18st). Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

To Finish

Stuff the head with fibrefill. Be careful not to overfill. It should be 'firmly squishy'

Sew bottom to body and weave in ends.