

Cardigan for Premature Babies

Required:

2 x 25g of main colour wool
1 x 25g of contrast colour wool
1 x 2.75mm knitting needles
1 x 3mm knitting needles
6 buttons
Safety pin

BACK

With 2.75mm needles and M, cast on 61 stitches and work in rib as follows

1st row: k1, *p1, k1; repeat from * to end. **2nd row:** p1, *k1, p1; repeat from * to end
Repeat these 2 rows 4 times more. Change to 3mm needles and C. Work in pattern as follows.

1st row: (right side) k1, *yarn forward, k3, slip 1, k2tog, pass slipped stitch over, k3, yarn forward, k1; repeat from * to end. **2nd row:** P to end. **3rd row:** As 1st row. **4th row:** K to end. **5th row:** P to end. **6th row:** P to end

** Change to M and repeat 1st – 6th rows inclusive of pattern. Change to C and repeat 1st – 6th rows inclusive of pattern**, repeat ** to ** twice more.

Shape Raglan Armholes

Keeping pattern correct throughout, cast off 2 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows (57 stitches)

Next row: k1, slip 1, k1, pass slipped stitch over, pattern to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1

Next row: p2, pattern to last 2 stitches, p2. Repeat last 2 rows until 23 stitches remain, finish with a wrong side row. Cast off.

LEFT FRONT:

With 2.75mm needles and M, cast on 37 stitches

Boys Garment Only

Work 4 rows in rib as given for Back. **Next row (buttonhole):** rib to last 4 stitches, yarn forward, k2tog, p1, k1. Work a further 4 rows in rib

Boys/Girls Garments

Next row: Rib 6, slip these stitches onto a safety pin for front band, rib to end (31 stitches). Change to 3mm needles and C. Work 42 rows in patten as given for Back, finish with wrong stitch row.

Shape Raglan Armhole

Keeping pattern correct throughout, cast off 2 stitches at beginning of next row (29 stitches). **Next row:** pattern to last 2 stitches, p2. **Next row:** k1, slip 1, k1, pass slipped stitch over, pattern to end. Repeat last 2 rows until 17 stitches remain, finish with a right side row.

Shape Neck

Next row: cast off 4 stitches, pattern to last 2 stitches, p2 (13 stitches)

Work 4 rows, decrease one stitch at neck edge on every row and AT THE SAME TIME decrease one stitch at raglan edge as before on the next and follow alternative row (7 stitches). Work 4 rows, decrease one stitch at raglan edge as before on 1st & 3rd rows and decrease one stitch at neck edge on 2nd & 4th rows (3 stitches)

Next row: k1, slip 1, k1, pass slipped stitch over. **Next row:** p2tog and fasten off.

RIGHT FRONT

With 2.75mm needles and M, cast on 37 stitches.

Girls Garments Only

Work 4 rows in rib as given for Back. **Next row (buttonhole):** rib 3, yarn forward, k2tog, rib to end. Work a further 4 rows in rib

Boys Garments Only

Work 9 rows in rib as given for Back

Boys/Girls Garments

Next row: Rib to last 6 stitches, TURN and slip these 6 stitches onto a safety pin for front band (31 stitches). Change to 3mm needles and C. Work 43 rows in pattern as given for Back, finish with right stitch row.

Shape Raglan Armhole

Keeping pattern correct throughout, cast off 2 stitches at beginning of next row (29 stitches). **Next row:** pattern to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1. **Next row:** p2, pattern to end. Repeat last 2 rows until 18 stitches remain, finish with a wrong side row.

Shape Neck

Next row: cast off 4 stitches, pattern to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1 (13 stitches)

Next row: p2, pattern to end. Work as given for Left Front from *** to ***

Next row: k2tog, k1. **Next row:** p2tog and fasten off.

SLEEVES (2 Alike)

With 2.75mm needles and M, cast on 37 stitches and work 9 rows in rib as given for Back. **Increase row:** rib 5, *m1, rib 4, repeat from * to last 4 stitches, m1, rib 4 (45

stitches). Change to 3mm needles and work 42 rows in pattern as given for back

Shape Top

Keeping pattern correct throughout, cast off 2 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows (41 stitches). **Next row:** k1, slip 1, k1, pass slipped stitch over, pattern to last 3 stitches, k2tog, k1. **Next row:** p2, pattern to last 2 stitches, p2. Repeat last 2 rows until 7 stitches remain, finish with a wrong side row. Cast off

BUTTON BAND

With 2.75mm needles and M, cast on one stitch and with right side of Left Front facing for Girls Garment or wrong side of Right Front for Boys Garment, rib across stitches from safety pin (7 stitches). **Continue in rib** until band when slightly stretched fits up front edge to beginning of neck shaping, finish with a wrong side row. **Break off yarn** and slip stitches onto a safety pin for Neckband. **Sew band** in place stretching evenly. **Mark button** positions on band, the first one to come in 5th row from cast edge, allowing for the top one to come in 3rd row of neckband and the remaining 4 spaced evenly between.

BUTTONHOLE BAND

With 2.75mm needles and M, cast on one stitch and with right side of Left Front facing for Boys Garment or wrong side of Right Front for Girls Garment, rib across stitches from safety pin (7 stitches). Complete as given for Button Band, working buttonholes as before to match markers. **DO NOT BREAK OFF YARN.** Slip stitches onto a safety pin for Neckband. Sew band in place stretching evenly.

NECKBAND

Join raglan seam. With right side facing, 2.75mm needles and M, rib across 7 stitches from Right Front Band; pick up and k15 stitches up right front neck, 6 stitches across right sleeve, 22 stitches across Back, 6 stitches across left sleeve and 14 stitches down left front neck; rib across 7 stitches from Left Front Band (77 stitches)
Work 5 rows in rib as given for Back, begin with a 2nd row and working a further buttonhole as before on the 2nd of these rows. Cast off loosely ribwise.

TO MAKE UP

Join side and sleeve seams. Press seams lightly. Sew on buttons to correspond with buttonholes.