



June 8, 2007

Preemie Blanket Tips & Guidelines Revised

Dear Sewing Friends:

AZ Blankets 4 Kids would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and help in making Preemie blankets for our tiniest of tiny blanket recipients. We have updated the guidelines for the construction of these blankets. Specific changes are noted with two asterisks**.

Check the AZB4K website for current patterns. These blankets are made with cotton tops and flannel backs only. No crochet or knit, please. If you crochet or knit, please donate blankets from Infant to Teen sizes.

The finished size of our Preemie blankets should be 18" square and consist of cotton front and flannel back layers. No batting is used. Front fabric can be either 100% cotton or you may use 100% cotton flannel. Backing fabric should be 100% cotton pre-laundered flannel in either solid colors or small baby friendly motif prints.

Both front and backing should be 18½" prior to combining [unfinished size]. With right sides together and using ¼" seams throughout construction, sew around the 4 sides and leave an opening at least 4" in order to turn and finish. After turning, press carefully so backing fabric is not visible around the edges. Close the opening by carefully hand stitching so no thread loops can get caught on tiny fingers and toes.

Minimal quilting is requested to protect the baby's ultra-sensitive skin. ****DO NOT QUILT WITHIN THE CENTER 12" PORTION OF THE QUILT.** If the quilt has a square pieced center, stitch in the ditch at the seam between the center and the border, and, sew a continuous seam approximately ½" from the edges of the quilt.

****PLEASE DO NOT SEW AN "X" [DIAGONAL LINES] FROM CORNER TO CORNER!**

Sew an AZB4K label [if you've got one] on the ****FRONT** of the quilt, on either the lower left or right corner. Position the label approximately 3/8" from the quilt's side and bottom edges. This can be hand sewn or applied by machine using a **STRAIGHT** stitch [NO zigzag, please] sewn 1/8" inside the label's edge. If using your machine, load white thread in the needle and bobbin. If you apply the label to the quilt face before attaching the front to the back, please position the label allowing for ¼" seam allowance [5/8" from side and bottom edges].

With your help, all of our Preemie blankets will be consistent with the guidelines developed by our Preemie Coordinator and the hospitals that help our tiniest blanket recipients.

THANK YOU!