

KiDZQuilts

Every preemie born in Sarasota County and four surrounding counties are sent to the NICU at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. More than 850 preemies are sent there each year. We provide many quilts for use in the NICU as preemies must be kept warm. During the past decade KiDZQuilts has donated more than 7,000 baby quilts!

DESIGN - Cheerful and colorful quilts are best. Traditional pinks and blues are popular. But many folks love bright colors, children's themes and even pre-printed panels that are incorporated into the quilt. Quilts can be a simple design such as a nine patch, or practice advanced techniques. Scrappy quilts are fun. At KiDZQuilts meetings we occasionally have "mini classes" when interesting designs are shown.

CONSTRUCTION - If you make a quilt that you would be pleased to give to a good friend's baby or grandchild, then you are creating the right quilt. Please carefully check for pins and untied threads. Do not use embellishments such as buttons, lace, bows or invisible thread. The quilts can be machine or hand quilted. No tied quilts, please. Please machine stitch bindings (although hand finishing in places is fine). An envelope-style quilt is fine - just remember to machine stitch it together. Quality should preempt quantity!

SIZES - The quilts should be no smaller than 17 x 25 inches (a good size for NICU use; NICU has other groups that make tiny mattress covers, etc.) Some of our quilts are about 28 x 40 inches, 36 inches square or even larger. Babies become toddlers! Many larger quilts are used for antepartum women, who often have long stays in the hospital. We make many, many sizes and they are all fine.

FABRIC - Use good quality fabric - 100% cotton is best but a blend with some polyester is OK. To remove sizing, to prevent shrinkage and to keep colors from running, wash and dry at home prior to construction. Flannel should be washed and dried four times, as this fabric has progressive shrinkage. In the NICU, quilts are washed in a laundry machine with a heat booster; they are too hot to touch at the end of the wash cycle. We always have fabric exchanges at KiDZQuilts meetings.

BATTING - Durability is important. Space quilting following instructions for the kind of batting you are using. A low loft batting is best.

Labels are available at KIDZQuilts & Guild Meetings.

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