

Angel Pockets for Sands

'A little life, not a little loss'

Who are Sands and what do they do?

The New Zealand charity Sands is a voluntary, parent-run, non-profit organisation that supports parents and families who experience the death of a baby during pregnancy, after birth, or as an infant. The organisation relies entirely on donations. As well as empathy and support, Sands' goals are to provide bereaved parents and their families with information; to raise public awareness; to provide ongoing education to health professionals; and to promote research into the causes and consequences of all baby loss.

Here's how you can help

The Angel Pocket comes in 4 sizes. The Angel Pockets are specially for tiny babies who do not make it. Some of these babies are very small and fragile, so these little wraps are used. Please use white, cream or pale yellow only. These colours are preferred as they can be used for a girl or boy even if the sex is not known. You will need 4ply or 5ply in a soft baby wool or, as Knit World recommends, Nako Super Bebe 4ply acrylic. It is ok to use 3ply – use the larger size patterns and adjust needles to suit. They will of course come out smaller. We mostly need sizes 1 and 2. The pattern for these beautiful angel pockets comes from Bath Royal United Hospital, UK.

ANGEL POCKETS

Use 4 ply wool or baby-soft acrylic yarn (see above) Size 9 needles (3¾ mm); between 25g and 100g yarn needed.

The approximate finished sizes:

Size 1 - 17cm [6½ inch] square

Size 2 - 22cm [9 inch] square

Size 3 - 28cm [11 inch] square

Size 4 - 33cm [13 inch] square



SQUARE (mitred)

CAST ON: 75 [101] [125] [151] stitches.

1st row (Wrong Side): Knit to centre 3 stitches Slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slip stitch over, knit to end of row.

2nd row: Knit.

Repeat these two rows until 3 stitches remain. Next row: Slip 1 knit 2 together Pass slip stitch over. Fasten off.

TIP! Use a safety pin to mark the centre on the wrong side to keep track of it!

TRIANGLE (mitred)

This forms the pocket. At the cast on edge of the square (2 sides), pick up 75 [101] [125] [151] stitches.

1st row (Wrong Side): Knit 1, Knit 2 together, knit to centre 3 stitches Slip 1, knit 2 together, pass slip stitch over, knit to the last 3 stitches, knit 2 together knit 1.

2nd row: Knit.

Repeat these 2 rows until 7 stitches remain.

Next row: Knit 1, knit 2 together, knit1, knit 2 together, Knit 1. Cast off remaining 5 stitches.

To finish off sew lace round the 3 raw edges or crochet a suitable edging. Cut ribbon, or make a cord 16 [18] [20] or [22] inches. Thread the ribbon/cord through front edge of pocket, gather up pocket and tie in a bow. If you wish to embellish with a little motif or bow, please do, keeping to neutral colours of white, cream or yellow.

Please drop off all finished angel pockets to any Knit World shop or send them to Knit World, PO Box 30645, Lower Hutt, 5040; or Knit World, 62 Queens Drive, Lower Hutt 5010. If you have any queries, email Celia (celia.coyne@yahoo.co.nz) or look for us on Facebook (Sands Baby Blankets Christchurch NZ). For more information about Sands, visit www.sands.org.nz or email sands.canterbury@xtra.co.nz.

As well as knitted angel pockets, we are always grateful for donations of 4ply yarn in white, cream or pale yellow. *Thank you for your support.*