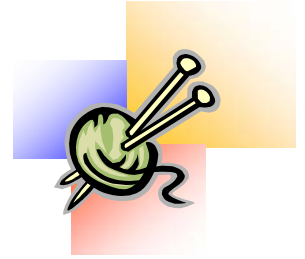




TEACHING YOUR LOVE OF KNITTING AND CROCHETING TO KIDS



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Helping 4-H members learn a skill like crocheting and knitting can be a real challenge as well as a gratifying experience. You will find that some members will master the skill easily, while others will struggle. Children who are taught to crochet and knit learn so much more than just “stitches”. They learn problem solving and math skills. Their reading, motor skills and eye-hand coordination are enhanced. It is an opportunity to develop decision making abilities and learn skills that can give pleasure throughout a lifetime. They find an outlet for their creativity which builds self-confidence and self-esteem.

Ten tips from the Pros:

1. **KEEP IT FUN.** Your young students must enjoy what they are doing. Let them see that you are having fun.
2. Have a model to display of a project so your students can see what they will be making.
3. Select simple projects that will interest your young students.
 - projects that can be completed quickly
 - use brightly colored yarns, and
 - have extra supplies on hand.
4. Keep the lessons short to accommodate the short attention span of children.
5. Don't expect perfection. They are trying. That is what is important. Praise them! Find something to compliment:
 - “I like that yarn color!”
 - “You have been a good listener today!”
 - “I like the way you are holding your crochet hook!”**REMEMBER KEEP IT FUN !!!**
6. Showing is better than telling. Demonstrate the skill that you want them to do.
7. Put something in their hands as soon as possible. Many teachers have found it easier to begin by giving students a hook or needles with a few rows of crochet or knitting completed. Students learn the basics more easily and then go back and learn foundation chain or cast on, which can be tricky for beginners because of their tension.
8. Children need a sense of accomplishment. Provide them with frequent progress reports.
9. When a child is having difficulty with a skill, show them an alternative, if possible.
10. When teaching teenagers:
 - do not “dumb down” your instructions, but recognize their interests are different.
 - treat them as adults not like “large children”
 - choose projects that match their interests
 - consider current fashion trends

Source: Craft Yarn Council of America



RESOURCES:

Fun songs to help kids remember basic crochet and knit stitches:

single crochet stitch:

Hook and pull through,
Hook again baby and
Pull through two
(Tune: Skip to My Lou)

knit stitch:

In through the front loop,
In through the front door
Around the back
Out through the window
And off jumps jack

Fun website where you can make Wordsearch, Cripto Grams and other puzzles relating to project. www.puzzlemaker.discovery.com

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension 4-H Project Manuals:

Unit 1 Let's Learn to Knit with knit and purl

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/4je/4je02po/4je02po.pdf>

Unit 2 Let's Learn to Knit with increase and decrease

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/4je/4je02po/4je01po.pdf>

Unit 3 Let's Learn to Knit with a Pattern Stitch

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/age/pubs/4je/4je03po/4je03po.pdf>

Unit 4 Let's Learn to Knit with Pick Up Stitches

<http://www.ca.uly.edu/agc/pubs/4je/4je04po/4je04po.pdf>

Books:

"I Can Knit": 11 Cool Knit Projects for Preteen Girls
Annie's Attic 1(800) LV-ANNIE 58-26643

Cool Stuff Teach Me to Knit

www.leisurearts.com

Cool Stuff Teach Me to Crochet

www.leisurerts.com



Magazines:

Simple Creative Crochet
Better Homes and Gardens
www.bhg.com

Crochet Fantasy
P.O. Box 313
Mt. Morris, IL 61054
1-800-877-5527

Country Quilts presents
Country Afghans
Harris Publishing
1115 Broadway, NY, NY 10010

Knit It!
Better Homes and Gardens
www.bhg.com

Interweave Knits
www.interweave.com

Easy Knitting
Family Circle
www.fceasyknitting.com

Service Project Ideas

Now that the youth know how to crochet or knit, put the knowledge to use by making crochet or knit donations to charity. Here are four of the most well-known charities so that you can visit their Web sites, or write for information

Crochet or knit 7" or 9" squares to be put together to make an afghan.
It's all about keeping people warm!
Warm Up America!
2500 Lowell Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
www.craftyarncouncil.com/warmup.html

Crochet or knit items for preemies, such as hats, booties, blankets and gowns:
TLC for Angels
850 Fort Plains Road
Howell, NJ 07731-1190
www.tlcforangels.tripod.com

Provide needy children with cozy hats to keep them warm.
Caps for kids—CYCA
c/o Bonnie Greene
30113 Echo Blue Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946-9422
<http://www.craftyarncouncil.com/caps.html>

Crochet or Knit slippers to send to U.S. Troops
Operation Toasty Toes-Slipper Project
www.operationtoastytoes8.gobot.com

Crochet or knit a blanket to a seriously ill or traumatized child or young adult:
Project Linus
P.O. Box 5621
Bloomington, IL 61702-5621
www.projectlinus.org

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Fair Exhibit Guidelines

Skills to be mastered

Knitting

Loom knitting
Knit and/or purl
Increase or decrease
Pattern stitch, one color or variegated yarn
Pickup stitches
Baby, sport, bulky, novelty yarn
Combination of colors
Four needles
Knitting machine

Crochet

Single, double or treble
Increase, decrease used for shaping
Pattern stitch, one color or variegated yarn
Round and/or square motifs w/color combination
Hairpin and broomstick lace
Combination of colors
Threads, sport, baby, bulky, novelty yarn
Crochet with mixed media
Afghan stitch
Filet Crochet

Potential Exhibits

hat, scarf, sock
slippers, hat, scarf, dishcloth
cap, mittens, dishcloth
purse, bag or vest
hat, raglan or smock sweater
other than 4-ply worsted
fair Isle, bobbin or mosaic knit
mittens, hat, ball, socks

pot holder, slippers, dishcloth
hat, pillow, shawl
dishcloth, afghan, vest, cape
hat, purse, vest, afghan
scarf, vest
jacquard or plaid effects
other than 4-ply yarn
fabric, paper, beads, etc.
afghan
wall hanging