

Project Linus - A Blanket of Love for Kids

Project Linus is a community service effort supported by Harris County 4-H Council and by our 4-H ambassadors. It provides homemade blankets or purchased blankets which are hand embellished or decorated to infants, children and teens who are patients at Texas Children's Hospital or MD Anderson Cancer Clinic.

Mrs. Sally Burns, coordinator of Project Linus in Houston, has sent her heart-felt thanks to 4-H members, leaders and parents supporting Project Linus. She has also sent a checklist for blankets and directions for making "no sew" fleece blankets. Please see those below.

Check List for Blankets:

1. Selvage should be cut off before working on fabric for the blanket.
2. Fringe should be cut with sharp scissors and be uniformly cut in width and length. Tie each fringe with a soft slipknot.
3. Blankets should be clean, and free of pet hair and the odor of smoke, perfume, perfumed soap and fabric softeners. Blankets with pet hair or with odors are unacceptable, because they can cause a severe allergic reaction in children.
4. Project Linus never has enough "boy" blankets. Please consider making a boy blanket for every girl blanket you make or make one that can be used by either one.

Directions for Fringed Fleece Blanket:

Supplies - 1.5 yards fleece, sharp scissors, masking tape

1. Carefully cut off the 2 selvage edges and trim top and bottom edges straight.
2. Use the masking tape to mark a line down the 2 sides, 4 inches from the edge. This is your stop cutting line.
3. Cut each side into ½ inch or ¾ inch fringe.
4. Wrap a piece of fringe around your finger to make a slipknot and gently push the knot up to the edge of the blanket.
5. If you want to make fringe on all sides of the blanket, you will need to cut a 4 inch square out of each corner of the fabric before you cut the fringe.
6. Do not tie the fringe tightly, because it will make the blanket edges curl up. Softly tied fringe will allow the blanket to lie flat.

Directions for a Premie Blanket:

1. Cut two squares - each one measuring 25" X 25". One should be out of flannel and the other out of cotton or cotton/blend fabric. This can be baby fabric, solids, prints, etc. Be sure to wash the fabric before it is cut out.
2. Put the squares together with the finished sides together (also called the right sides).
3. Sew all around the square, leaving an unstitched section large enough to turn the right sides out through the "hole". The seam should be at least ½ inches.
4. Turn right side out through the hole, smoothing out the corners.
5. Tuck in the unstitched edges where the hole is and top stitch or hand stitch it closed. Press the blanket with the iron using the correct setting for the fabric type.