

NEW SERVICE PROJECT!

PREEMIE BLANKETS AND INCUBATOR COVERS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

One of our service projects for the upcoming program year will be making preemie blankets and incubator covers for Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C. The preemie blankets are small (15 inches square) and perfectly suited for the NeedleChaser who's long on caring but short on time. The incubator covers are larger (30 inches square) and are a great choice for the quilter who'd like a more substantial service project or one with a little more design and construction flexibility. Something for everyone!

PREEMIE BLANKETS. All fabrics should be in colors and patterns suitable for infants. The bottom of the blanket should be made of cotton flannel, but the tops can be made from either cotton flannel or cotton quilting fabric, either whole cloth or pieced. All fabrics should be washed (preferably with soap or with fragrance-free and color-free detergent) to remove excess dye and chemical coatings and finishes, then dried in a warm dryer to minimize shrinkage when the blanket is washed.

The finished size of the blanket is 15 inches square, so you'll need a 15.5-inch square piece of flannel for the bottom. For the top, you can use:

- A 15.5-inch square of fabric.
- A 12-inch pieced square with a 1.5-inch border (measures 15.5 inches square).
- Any other pieced fabric that measures 15.5 inches square.

No batting is used in the blanket.

With right sides together, sew the two top and bottom together, using a 1/4-inch seam and leaving a 2- or 3-inch opening on one side of the blanket. Clip the corners and turn the blanket inside out. Pin or baste the opening shut. Sew a row of stitching 1/16 to 1/8 inch from the edge of the blanket. You can also sew another row of stitching up to 1.5 inches from the edge of the blanket. There should not be any stitching in the 12 inches in the center of the blanket.

INCUBATOR COVERS. The finished size of an incubator cover is 30 inches square. Fabrics used for the top of the cover should be in colors and patterns suitable for infants. The purpose of the cover is to block light (so using batting and a medium-colored backing would probably be a good idea), and it has to be washable. Within those constraints, you can use any design you want, and you can quilt or tie the entire cover.

Please give your finished projects to our program co-chair, Debbie Lamb-Mechanick. If you have any questions, please see Debbie or Lisa Friedman.

