

KIDZQUILTS

Guidelines July

2008

Purpose:

Our quilts are intended for the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Some are distributed to other needy families with older children by the NICU Coordinator, Laura Stutzman.

The graduates of the NICU are given a quilt to take home, usually chosen by the mother. Within the NICU our quilts are used to cover incubators as well as in bassinets for premature babies who can breathe independently.

Construction:

If you make a quilt that you would be pleased to give to a good friend's baby 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. Ties on these quilts is not acceptable.

Do not use ties and please machine stitch bindings (although hand finishing in places is fine).

An envelope-style quilt is fine - just remember to machine stitch it together.

SIZES The quilts should be no smaller than 17x 25 (a good size for NICU use) as Laura has other groups that make tiny mattress covers, etc. Many of my quilts are about 28x 40 or even larger. Many of these families are poor and I think older children enjoy having a quilt, too. Also, babies become toddlers! We make many, many sizes and they are all fine.

Fabric:

Use good quality fabric - 100% cotton or a blend with some polyester is okay.

To remove sizing, to prevent shrinkage, and to keep colors from running, it is better to wash and dry fabric at home prior to construction. Our quilts are

washed in the hospital laundry with a heat booster; they are too hot to touch at the end of the wash cycle.

We always have fabric exchanges at our meeting.

Batting:

Durability is important - space your quilting following instructions for the kind of batting you are using.

A low loft batting is best. I use 'Soft and Bright' by the Warm Co., which is a fine product; it is a needled polyester, available at Joann's by the yard. There are many good battings suitable for baby quilts on the market.

Design:

Cheerful and colorful quilts are best. Laura tells me that traditional pinks and blues are the most popular. But many love bright colors, children's themes, and pre-printed panels that are incorporated in the quilt. A crib was decorated recently with a patriotic theme to honor a family member leaving for Iraq. Don't forget all those baby boys when designing your quilt.

Quilts can be a simple design such as a nine patch or you can practice some advanced techniques. Scrappy quilts are fun.

During Show & Tell, at our meetings, quilters have the opportunity to share patterns and techniques. Quilts are photographed at this time.

How Can I give my quilts to KiDZQuilts?

Many of our members belong to the American Sewing Guild or to the Friendship Knot Quilting Guild and can bring your quilts to our meetings.

You are welcome to join us Monday afternoons when we meet at the Fruitville Library from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Our next 2008 meetings will be on July 14, August 11, September 22, October 27, November 10 and December 8.

Donations:

We welcome donations of cotton fabrics, thread, and batting. Even your scraps are transformed into beautiful quilts. Financial contributions will be used for supplies.

Labels:

Our KiDZQuilts labels state: KiDZQuilts

Made with Love

Your Name

Sarasota, Florida

I have a supply of labels or you can sign the back of the quilt yourself with an indelible pen.

For further information:

Telephone Jo Wieczynski, KiDZQuilts Coordinator, at 342-9778 , e-mail her at j.wieczynski@comcast.net, or write her at 3398 West Chelmsford Court, Sarasota, FL 34235.