Preemie Sweetpea Cardigan

the FATED knitter

After my Mum introduced me to the Warm Baby Project charity, I wanted to help by making some short-sleeved cardigans similar to my Sweetpea Cardigan design.

Most charities like this prefer acrylic yarn (for easy care), in a double knit weight (seems to be the more popular weight), and so, with a little bit of math to convert the pattern, the Preemie Sweetpea Cardigan was created.

This is a top-down raglan shaped cardigan. For ease and speed (since we want to help as many teeny babies as possible) the collar, hems, and button band are all knitted as you go.

introduction

Materials:

Any standard DK weight yarn (100g is approx. 300m)
4.00mm needle (UK8 / US6)
Darning Needle
Four buttons

Difficulty: Beginner

Sizing:

Gauge: 20 sts x 28 rows over stocking stitch worked flat and unblocked
Size: 32cm chest—up to 6lbs—preemie

Note: If you use 2.75mm needles and fingering/4ply weight yarn you can make a teeny preemie cardigan!

Abbreviations:

K = Knit

P = Purl

St/ sts = stitches

Sl1 = slip stitch as if to purl

Kfb = knit front and back of the stitch

Yo = yarn over

K2tog = knit two stitches together

PM/ SM/ RM = Place marker, slip marker, remove marker

Pattern Construction:

The cardigan is a top-down raglan sleeve garment. The collar is cast on and starts immediately. Once complete increases are worked to shape the front, back, and sleeves. The sleeves are then cast off and the front and back are joined and worked straight, including the hem. The button band is worked as you go.

pattern instructions

Cast on 52 sts.

Rows 1-2: Sl1, knit to end. (52 sts)

Row 3: Sl1, k1, yo, k2tog, knit to end. (52 sts)

Rows 4-5: Sl1, knit to end. (52 sts)

Row 6: Sl1, knit to end. (52 sts)

Row 7: Sl1, k3, pm, k5, kfb, pm, kfb, k6, kfb, pm, kfb, k14, kfb, pm, kfb, k6, kfb, pm, kfb, k5, k4. (60 sts).

Row 8: *Slip all markers as you go.* Sl1, k3, purl to last 4 sts, k4. (60 sts)

Row 9: Sl1, k3, sm, *knit to one stitch before next marker, kfb, sm, kfb* repeat for all markers, and then knit to the end. (68 sts).

Rows 10-16: Repeat rows 8 & 9 three times more, and then row 8 once more. (100 sts).

Row 17: Sl1, k1, yo, k2tog, sm, *knit to one stitch before next marker, kfb, sm, kfb* repeat for all markers, and then knit to the end. (108 sts).

Row 18: As row 8. (108sts)

Row 19: As row 9. (116sts).

Row 20: As row 8. (116 sts)

Row 21: Sl1, knit to end. (116 sts)

Row 22: *Slip all markers as you go.* Sl1, k3, purl to marker, knit to marker, purl to marker, knit to marker, purl to marker, k4. (116 sts)

Row 23: As row 9. (124 sts).

Row 24: As row 22. (124 sts)

Row 25: Sl1, knit to end. (124 sts)

Row 26: *Remove all markers as you go.* Sl1, k3, purl to marker, cast off 24 sts knitwise, purl to marker, cast off 24 sts knitwise, purl to marker, k4. (72 sts).

Row 27: Knit across all sts. (72 sts)

Row 28: Sl1, k3, purl to last 4 sts, k4. (72 sts)

Row 29: Sl1, knit to end. (72 sts)

Row 30: Sl1, k3, purl to last 4 sts, k4. (72 sts)

Row 31: Sl1, k1, yo, k2tog, knit to end. (72 sts)

Row 32: As row 30. (72 sts)

Rows 33-42: Repeat rows 29-30. (72 sts)

Rows 43-44: Sl1, knit to end. (72 sts)

Row 45: Sl1, k1, yo, k2tog, knit to end. (72 sts)

Rows 46-47: Sl1, knit to end. (72 sts)

Cast off knitwise.

Darn in yarn ends and sew on buttons.

Wash and block if desired.