

Fuss Free Baby Cardigan Pattern



Pattern Description:

The Fuss Free Baby Cardigan is for **0-3 (3-6) month sizes**, worked in stocking stitch with garter stitch.

It features a raglan set-up, separated sleeves, and easy button bands with optional buttonholes. It uses DK weight yarn, circular/DPNs, and a stretchy Russian bind-off for button bands.

Materials Needed & Measurements:

- **Yarn:** 100g dk weight yarn. The sample sweater uses 60g of dk weight yarn, with approximately 10g for the collar, hems, and button bands, suitable for using up a 50g ball from a stash with a contrasting trim.
- **Yarn Weight:** dk weight yarn.
- **Hook:** The pattern uses knitting needles: **4mm circular needle** and **4mm DPNs if required for sleeves (or use magic loop)**.
- **Notions:**
 - 4 stitch markers
 - 2 lengths waste yarn or stitch holders x2
 - 4 buttons
 - Tapestry needle
 - Scissors
 - Tape measure

- **Measurements:**
 - Finished size: **0-3 (3-6) months.**
 - Chest measurement: **19.5” (21”).**
 - Garment length: Measures **3.5 (4.5)** “ from underarm.

Stitches & Abbreviations Used:

- **K:** knit
- **P:** Purl
- **RS/WS:** Right/wrong side
- **K2 tog:** k2 together
- **pm:** place marker
- **sm:** slip marker
- **st:** stitch
- **kfb:** knit into front & back
- **yo:** yarn over
- **pwise:** purlwise
- **wyib/f:** with yarn in back/front
- **m1r:** make 1 right (with LH needle, pick up thread in between 2 st from front to back, Ktbl)
- **m1l:** make 1 left (with LH needle, pick up thread between 2 st from back to front, k this st)

Instructions for Making the Fuss Free Baby Cardigan Pattern:

Casting On and Initial Garter Stitch Rows

- **Cast on 50 (56) st.**
- **Knit 1 row.**
- For the following 8 rows, work in garter stitch, always **Sl 1st st pwise wyib.** This creates 4 garter ridges and prepares for easy button bands.

Raglan Set-Up and Increases

This section establishes the raglan shaping for the cardigan.

- On the **next (RS) row:**
 - **Sl 1st st pwise wyib.**
 - **K 7 (8) st for front, then pm.**
 - **K 7 (8) st for sleeve, then pm.**
 - **K 20 (22) st for back, then pm.**
 - **K 7 (8) st for sleeve, then pm.**
 - **K 8 (9) st for front.**
- You will now begin the raglan increase pattern, repeating two rows 12 times in total.

- **Row 1 (RS - Increase Row):** K to 1 st before m, kfb, sm, kfb, Repeat from 3 times, k to end. (The kfb increase option is explicitly used here).
 - **Row 2 (WS - Purl Row):** Sl 1st st pwise wyif, p to end.
- After repeating Rows 1 and 2 twelve times, you will have the following stitch counts:
 - **For 0-3 month size:** 154 st total (21 each front, 33 each sleeve, 46 back).
 - **For 3-6 month size:** 160 st total (22 each front, 34 each sleeve, 48 back).

Separating Sleeves from Body

Next, you will separate the sleeve stitches onto waste yarn to work the body.

- On the **Next (RS) row:**
 - **K to 1st marker** (remove the marker as you reach it).
 - Using a **tapestry needle**, **slide the sleeve st onto waste yarn. Tie a knot** in the waste yarn to secure the stitches.
 - **K across the back stitches.**
 - **Slide the 2nd set of sleeve st onto another strand of waste yarn. Tie a knot.**
 - **K to the end of the row.**

Working the Body

After separating the sleeves, you will continue working the body of the cardigan.

- Continue to **work in stocking stitch** (knit RS rows, purl WS rows) for the main body.
- Work until the **garment measures 3.5 (4.5) “ from underarm.**
- Once the desired length is reached, **K 8 rows in garter stitch.**
- **Cast off.**

Sleeves

Now you will work each sleeve individually.

- **Slip the held sleeve sts onto your circular needle or DPNs.**
- **Rejoin yarn and K 1 round.**
- **Pick up and K 3 (5) st at the underarm.**
- **Place marker (pm) and join to work in the round.**
- Work (K1 round, p1 round) x2.
- **Cast off firmly.**
- **Repeat for the 2nd sleeve.**

Button Bands

The final step involves creating the button bands for your cardigan.

- With the **RS facing**, **pick up and K each slipped st along the left side of the garment.**
- **K 8 rows** (this forms 4 garter ridges).

- **Optional Buttonholes:** If desired, on **Row 4** of the button band, work **4 sets of (yo, K2tog) at evenly spaced intervals.**
- **Bind off** using the **stretchy Russian bind-off.**

Russian Bind-Off Technique

The Russian Bind-Off produces a very stretchy edge, which is suitable for button bands.

- **K 1 st.**
- **Sl that st back to the LH needle.**
- ***K2tog, sl that st back to LH needle..**
- **Repeat from * until all st are bound off.**

Finishing

- **Attach the 4 buttons** to the corresponding side of the cardigan.
- Weave in any loose ends using your tapestry needle.