

## Preemie Cardigan

Fits a 3-lb. baby. For a 4–5 lb. size, add an extra ridge between buttonholes and work sleeves a few more rounds before starting the cuff. Chest measurement will be about 13¼", neck-to-bottom, 5½" or slightly longer. These measurements conform to the Preemie Guide, thanks to [www.bevscountycottage.com](http://www.bevscountycottage.com).



Materials: Bernat SofteeBaby or Baby Jacquards (Sport Weight—1 Ball will make at least two sweaters), US#2 and #4 straight needles and dpn's, 2 small stitch holders, 4 half-inch buttons.

Gauge: approx 7 sts and 9 rows per inch.

Cast on 51 sts. on #2 needle

1. K 4, K1, P1 rib across, K last 4

2. K 4, P1, K1 rib across, K last 4

3. Buttonhole row: K 2, y/o, K 2 tog., work across as in Row 1. (Or work buttonhole at the end of the row for a girl) Do a buttonhole row every 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> garter ridge on button band.

4. As Row 2

5. K across

6. Change to larger needle, K across, placing markers: Work 12, p.m., work 3, p.m., work 21, p.m., work 3, p.m., work last 12 sts (51 sts)

7. (Right side) Begin raglan increases. K across, doing a bar-type increase before and after each marker— 8 sts added

8. K 4, P across, passing markers, K last 4

Repeat Rows 7 and 8 until each sleeve has 25 sts. *Do not forget buttonholes.* In next row, (w.s.) work across, putting the 25 sts of sleeve on a holder without working: then cast on 3 sts at underarm where sleeve had been. Continue working, putting second sleeve on a holder and casting on 3 in a similar manner.(95 sts on needle)

Work even on 95 sts, being sure to put in buttonhole at the proper interval. Before 4<sup>th</sup> buttonhole is due to be worked, work another garter ridge, change to smaller needles for ribbing and incorporate the 4<sup>th</sup> buttonhole in the bottom cuff, matching the style of the neckband. Work a few more rows and bind off.

Sleeve: On #4 dpn's, pick up 25 sts from holder, plus 3 sts at cast-on underarm. Work 16 rounds (or a few more for larger size) of 28 sts.

P 1 round. Change to #2 needles. K 1 round. Work K1, P 1 ribbing for 7 or 8 rounds.

Bind off. Repeat for 2<sup>nd</sup> sleeve. If you want to make a deeper ribbed cuff for folding back,

this is OK, however a tiny preemie looks very lost in a giant folded cuff.

Weave in ends. Sew on buttons very securely.

If this sweater is going to a NICU, be sure to wash it and seal it in a zipper bag, disinfecting hands first before handling laundered sweater. Mark your donation with the proper size (i.e., 3 lbs.)

This sweater goes fast: about 5 hours.

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