

MAKING A BRIGHT HOPES QUILT

SUPPLIES:

Top: Begin with a top which is at least 1 yard long by the width of fabric in a child's print, a bright colored print, or pieced blocks.

Backing: Select a backing of a slightly larger size than the top and in a complementary color.

Batting: Size should also be slightly larger than the top (Ruth says that polyester batting is best).

Comforter sizes **are suggested minimums** - the Children's Shelter can use all sizes of quilts. I, as a non-quilter, am told that having the back and the batting just slightly larger than the top allows for trimming to size, if necessary, without needing to trim the design bearing quilt top as much, if at all. I leave the choice of fabric, batting, etc. up to the individual quilter, especially if that quilter is furnishing all of the fabric and batting from personal supplies.

A side note from Children's Shelter Staff: Children at the shelter range in ages all the way up to 14 years of age but 70% average 5 years of age or younger. Because of the young age of most children brought to the shelter, for safety reasons I am asking that guild members **consider** using cotton fabrics (for its flame resistance when compared to polyesters, etc.) for the outside of comforters.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Firmly attach the GSAQG Bright Hopes label on the quilt back (using whatever method you prefer) **before** enveloping the quilt (beats attaching by hand later!!!).
2. Place right sides of top and backing together and press - pressing helps hold pieces together.
3. Place batting on backing side and pin center and around edges.
4. Envelope: Machine stitch around edge, leaving an opening of approximately 10" for turning. Serging is a wonderful way to sew because it eliminates Step 5.
5. Trim seam to about 1/2 inch; trim corners.
6. Turn quilt right side out and poke out corners.
7. At this point it is good to press the edge, pulling out the seam so you can get a sharp edge. Turn raw edge that was left open and pin.
8. Put a row of machine stitching close to the pressed edge, taking care to catch the raw edge where you turned the quilt.
9. Tie or machine quilt. If you tie, use embroidery floss or something similar to pearl cotton or thin crochet thread. Because these quilts may receive some rough use by young children please do not embellish the quilts with anything which can easily detach (nothing attached with hot-melt glue guns, no buttons, etc.).
10. Turn quilt in to the Bright Hopes committee and give yourself a big hug. If each member made only two quilts a year, we could meet our goal of 480 quilts per year and any extra quilts would be stars in our crown.



Quilt instructions developed by Ruth Felty in January 1999.
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Mike Mitchell, Bright Hopes Committee.