

Teddy Bears' Picnic Hairband

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This pattern is free to download from <http://www.carolinewood.co.uk>. If you use it please acknowledge my work as the pattern creator and do get in touch to show what you've made! Please note that the flower pattern is taken directly from *Crochet For Bears To Wear*, p34, by Amy O'Neill Houck – I take no credit for it and acknowledge her pattern with thanks and much kudos for the inspiration. The mesh pattern and custom-fitting technique are my own.

I first made this hairband for my daughter to wear to preschool for a Teddy Bears' Picnic event, having made the Bear-y Pickin' Dress from Amy's book for her bear – this child of mine is very keen on having everything to match! It's a simple pattern with neat edges which is designed to use the natural stretch of cotton yarn to custom-fit the hairband to your child; and of course you can make the hairband in any colour combination you like.

The following pattern makes a hairband to fit your child. It is made with Patons 100% Mercerised Cotton DK yarn (100g/210m); I used a 3.25mm hook (but I work tightly so experiment to get your own tension). PLEASE NOTE I am using UK crochet terms so American crocheters should read “dc” for “tr”.

Custom Fitting

To get a custom-fit for your child, you can make the measurement in two ways.

You can wrap a tape measure around their head where a hairband would normally lie (so around the nape of the neck under the hair, behind the ears and over the front of the head). Note this measurement down. Now take your centre stripe colour (in this case, red) and chain (ch) as many stitches as you need to get to this measurement WHEN THE CHAIN IS AT FULL STRETCH, so hold your hook at the 0mm end of the tape measure and pull the chained cotton down the length; keep chaining until you get the length you need. This bit is really important – if there's any slack in the chain the hairband will be too loose. This is a great way to do it if you want to make it for a surprise or to send in the post as all you need is that measurement.

The other way to get the fit is to just start chaining and every so often, see if you can stretch the chain around your child's head. This does depend on their co-operation, though! Again, the chained section must be at full stretch when the ends meet or it'll be too slack.

Once you've got your measurement, chain another two stitches and slip stitch one end to the other (slst) to complete the round.

Row 1

Ch4, skip (sk) 1 stitch, treble (tr) in next st. *Ch1, skip (sk) 1 stitch, tr in next stitch, repeat from * around. Complete the round by ending with ch1 then slst into 3rd chain of the initial Ch4 to join. Do not turn.

Row 2

Ch4, skip (sk) 1 stitch, treble (tr) in tr of lower round. Ch1, skip (sk) 1 stitch, tr in next tr, repeat from * around. Complete the round as per Row 1. Ensure you are making the trebles into the previous trebles, NOT the chain spaces.

Row 3

Work as for Row 2, fasten off (FO) and darn in the ends.

Flowers

Find the front centre of the hairband (fold it in half). You will be working around the square formed by the mesh pattern in the centre row.

First petal: Slst around the post formed by a treble stitch in the centre row. Ch3, tr twice around the same post, slst then turn the hairband clockwise.

Second petal: Slst around the chain space now facing you; ch3, tr 2, sl then turn the hairband clockwise again.

Third & Fourth petals: As first and second petals, slst to join the round and FO.

I spaced the flowers on my daughter's hairband out by five mesh spaces, you may need to make them closer or further apart depending on the size of the child's head that you're working for.

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And the blog's at www.crafts.carolinewood.co.uk – see you around!

Don't forget, Amy's fantastic book Crochet For Bears To Wear is where the flower pattern came from and is well worth a look: the ISBN is 978-0-307-46212-1