

## ETHIOPIAN INFANT LAYETTE

Before she was transferred to another country, the doctor who served the people of the area where we work told me, "Tell the ladies who make the baby clothes that when Jesus comes again He will be happy because they are doing what He said, to 'Clothe the naked.' The babies are brought to me naked, wrapped in filthy cloths or old clothes, whatever the mothers have." (Dr. Lolit Largossa, May, 2001)

The mothers are so thankful for the beautiful clothes we are able to give them because of the unselfish love of so many hands. Please realize that these clothes will literally be the only ones the baby will have until they fall apart or are completely outgrown. This is why they must be durable and even a little large at first.

The mother carries her baby on her back so a large blanket is helpful to hold the child. Darker colors are more practical, but I can't resist a baby pastel sometimes, and you're free to choose, too. The style of jacket we use will grow with the child and I see many toddlers still wearing their jacket. A short jacket is more practical than a nightgown in this situation. The babies didn't wear diapers until we taught the value of keeping their little bottoms covered, and now many mothers make their own diapers from rags. We only include one diaper, because of the added luggage weight, but we can still teach "diaper principles 101." We do not provide plastic pants for various reasons. Please do not send "Onesies;" they just get wet and messy. Handmade booties and hats are appreciated; please be sure the stitches are sturdy. You can make a complete kit or one article and we will finish the kit. We always need extra blankets and quilts.

Layette items are packed in a two-gallon size Ziploc bag and include:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| *Warm Blanket, 45" x 45"              | *One Cloth Diaper and Four Diaper Pins |
| *Jacket                               | *Stretch Cap, size medium to large     |
| *Two Pairs Booties or Socks           | *Undershirt, size 6 to 12 months       |
| *Two Baby Washcloths, approx. 6" x 6" | *Two Bars Mild Soap, Dove or Ivory     |

**Double Layer Flannel Blanket:** Each side takes 1-1/4 yards of fabric, 45" wide. Iron and place right sides together, matching selvage edges, smooth and pin carefully to ensure all four are straight and even; this is very important. Corners may be square or rounded. (A saucer makes a great rounded pattern.) Either surge edges, double-stitch or zigzag raw edges for strength, leaving an approximate 6" opening to turn right-side out. Turn, close opening, press and then stitch around outside edge, approximately 1/2" from edge to reinforce and to prevent shifting of the two sides. Press.

**Single Layer Fleece Blanket:** Cut fabric to 45" square. Stitch around all four edges, approximately 1/2" to 1" from edge to help prevent stretching from use. Edge may also be finished with "buttonhole" hand stitch, crocheted, bound or hemmed. Please do not knot edges because this makes the blanket too bulky to pack.

**Washcloth:** Approximate size is 6" x 6" and can be made from scraps of flannel, cotton knit, or terrycloth. The edges may be surged or hemmed. If the fabric is thin, make the washcloth double sided. Regular size washcloths are not used, because we want the family to realize these are only for the baby.

**Jacket:** Takes approximately 13" length of fabric, outside and lining, each. Can be made from flannel, cotton, fleece or brushed knit. Both cotton and flannel must be lined. Pattern available upon request. Remember to reinforce all seams. Use Velcro instead of buttons, ties or snaps, so nothing comes loose. It's optional to decorate with a tied and sewn on ribbon.

**Stretch Cap:** Approximately 1/2 yard length of stretch knit fabric makes two hats. The pattern may look a little ominous, but it really is simple. Just be sure you follow the instructions on the pattern when you place it on the fabric or it won't stretch across the forehead.

Your donation of a complete kit, or single items, is greatly appreciated.

For patterns or more information, call DeAnna Kennard, 435-654-3548