



## Homemade Donation Guidelines for NICU

Thank you for your interest in donating homemade items to help meet the needs of our patients and their families during their hospital stay. Listed below are guidelines that will help protect our tiniest of patients whose immune systems are often compromised due to their prematurity. Your consideration of donating your time and talent to provide items to help our NICU babies play, learn, and meet developmental milestones and to help our NICU families during a time of need is much appreciated.

We are currently accepting:

**Baby Hats & Blankets**

**Scent Cloths**

**Swaddles**

**Positioning Items**- for example: octopus, moon, snakes, bean bags, etc.

**Velcro Outfits**

### Materials

- Materials must be very soft and machine washable. Acrylic and cottons are best. We cannot accept items made with wool or pompadour.
- See list of suggested yarns (below)
- Try a "Scratch Test" when choosing material. Rub the yarn/fabric on the inside of your forearm. If it feels scratchy, it is too rough to be used to make NICU items.
- Materials should be new and kept in a clean, covered container or air tight bag prior to use and after to avoid accumulation of air-borne products, dust, animal dander, etc.

### Colors

- We accept all child-friendly colors and patterns. Bright and Pastel colors and baby patterns are most requested.
- We want the items to be special all year long! Please avoid seasonal materials (Christmas, Halloween, etc.).

### Measurements

- **Hats:** Should be 10"-12" in diameter (27-30 cm) - Verify that the length and width of hats fall within the same size category so they fit well.
- **Baby Blanket:** Sizes can range from 30" x 30" up to 40" x 45" and can be used to cover their Isolette/incubator beds to shield from bright lights.

## Donation Making Environment

- Please ensure a clean and germ-free environment when making the homemade items.
- Clean the workspace with an anti-bacterial wipe, wash hands with soap & water prior to working with brand new materials.
- If knitting or crocheting a donation item, please assure all surfaces the item will touch are clean and dust-free.

## List of Suggested Yarn for Hats and Blankets

There are examples yarns that are soft enough for our babies. There are many other great yarn types and brands out there and this list should only be used as a "softness guide". All yarn and fabric should be new and stored in air-tight containers to avoid exposure to environmental elements.

- Red Heart Baby (No Pompadour, Super Saver or Sport)	- Bernat Baby	- Lion Brand Polarspun
- TLC Baby	- Bernat Lu Lu	- Caron Simply Soft
- Bernat Softee Baby	- Lion Brand Baby Soft	- Plymouth Dreambaby
- Bernat Cottontots	- Lion Brand Microspun	- Wendy Peter Pan
- Bernat Baby Lash	- Lion Brand CottonEase	- Knit Picks Shine
	- Lion Brand Jamie Baby	- Patons Fairytale
	- Lion Brand Homespun Baby	- Sirdar Snuggly

## Yarn Hats Blankets

- Please weave in all ends and make sure seams are secure.

## Quilts

- Suggested materials are 100% cotton quilting fabric and cotton batting.
- French binding is preferred, as it is more durable and will last longer than "quick turn" and other binding methods.
- Quilts should be machine quilted or hand tied.

## Fleece Blankets

- Fleece blankets need to be only a single layer of fleece.
- Edges should be finished; i.e. tied, crocheted, serged or hemmed.

## Preparing Your Donations

- Please wash all items **with Dreft** before donating item(s).
- Before washing and drying donation items, please wipe the inside drums of both the washer and dryer with an antibacterial wipe. Let the drum surface dry before washing/drying donation items.
- Do not use fabric softener.
- Remove donation item directly from dryer. Immediately package each individual item or set of items in a separate zip-loc bag.
- Include a donation tag (Optional)

### **Delivery & Donation Form**

Prior to delivering items, we ask that you complete a Gift-in-Kind Form and bring it with you when you deliver your donation. If possible, please estimate the value of your items based on materials and time spent.

Please store completed items in unscented plastic bag or plastic container to keep them clean until delivery. Please do not store items in cardboard boxes. Please do not gift-wrap donated items.

Due to patient confidentiality and infection control, donated items are distributed by Baylor Scott and White McLane Children's Medical Center staff. Unfortunately, individuals and groups are not allowed to distribute donated items to patients.

When items are ready for delivery, please contact **254-724-2311**  
or drop-off at **2401 S. 31st Street, Temple, TX 76508**  
NICU is located on the 3rd floor of the South Tower entrance  
at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center- Temple