

## Pocket Hugs Dos & Don'ts

**DO** cut your shapes within our 2-3 inch guidelines. If they are too big, we can't fit them in the bags! If they are too small, the students don't get the same benefits.

**DON'T** stuff your shapes with fabric scraps, plastic bags, or a single layer of fleece. We prefer a polyester fiber fill stuffing, like Poly-Fil. The shapes should be squishy and quiet.

**DO** feel free to use bright cheerful colors! You can make your hugs all the same color or mix and match.

**DON'T** leave gaps in your stitches where the stuffing can be seen. We don't want the students to pull all the stuffing out of their hugs!

**DO** read all of the guidelines before making your hugs. We run a quality control check on all incoming pocket hugs, and we want yours to pass!

**DON'T** add buttons to the hugs. You can embroider smiley faces or small flowers if you like!

**DO** hide your outlines! If you use a marker to draw the shape on the fabric before you cut them, please either cut inside the marker lines, or turn the fabric so the marker lines are inside the shape.

**DON'T** forget to have fun with this project! You might have a hug party with friends and family, and everyone can pitch in!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can my group make hugs?

Yes! We would love a donations of pocket hugs from your group and would be happy to share your donation on social media!

### How do I sign up to make pocket hugs?

There's no need to sign up! While we appreciate knowing that hugs are being made, feel free to be spontaneous and make them whenever you feel the urge!

### What materials do I need to make pocket hugs?

The quick answer is: Fabric, thread, stuffing, and a needle.

You will need fabric of some sort; we suggest felt, but many other fabrics are appropriate. You will need some kind of thread or yarn; embroidery thread is suggested and comes in many colors. If you use embroidery thread, we strongly suggest using an embroidery needle, which has a bigger eye and is easier to thread. And then you need a polyester stuffing to fill the shape.

### Can I use any kind of fabric?

While we prefer fabric with some kind of texture, like felt or flannel, any kind of sturdy fabric is acceptable.

### How do I do a Blanket Stitch?

Here are a few tutorials for a simple Blanket Stitch. Buttonhole stitching is another good one to use (see the video tutorial).

- [Blanket Stitch Pictorial 1](#)
- [Blanket Stitch Pictorial 2](#)
- [Blanket Stitch Video](#)

### **Do I have to use a Blanket Stitch?**

No! We prefer a well-done blanket stitch or buttonhole stitch, but if you are hand-sewing, we can recommend using a back stitch.

Here are some simple tutorials for backstitching.

- [Backstitch Pictorial](#)
- [Backstitch Video](#)

You can use a sewing machine as well, if you are more comfortable with that!

### **Can I crochet or knit the hearts?**

Yes! We love crocheted hearts! Crocheted or knitted hearts still need to be within our size guidelines of 2-3 inches, and the shapes should be stuffed with regular polyester fiber stuffing like Poly-Fil. We do not want just a flat heart shape.

### **How many pocket hugs do you need?**

We serve more than 50,000 students, and we would love for every one of them to have a pocket hug of their very own!

### **How many pocket hugs do I need to make?**

You can make as many or as few as you like – we accept all donations! Some donations are just a dozen or so, some groups will donate several hundred at a time! We combine all the donations when we package the hugs for the store.

### **When do you need the pocket hugs?**

While our store is open for teacher shopping during the school year (August – May), we accept donations all year round, so anytime is fine. When we have enough in our inventory, we'll put them in the store for our teachers.

### **Should I make an appointment to drop off my completed hugs?**

We definitely prefer that you let us know in advance! Contact Carlye at [c.rausch@crayonstoclassrooms.org](mailto:c.rausch@crayonstoclassrooms.org) to set up a date. You can drop them off between 9am-4pm on any normal business day (by 3pm on Fridays). Remember to fill out your off-site project form!

### **Can I get sewing supplies from Crayons to Classrooms?**

Generally, we don't supply the materials for this project. On rare occasions we may have small amounts of felt or embroidery thread and can share those if you are making pocket hugs. We cannot supply needles or stuffing.