

## TACTILE QUILT PATTERN

These quilts are intended to be floor quilts. The different textures encourage the babies to learn to move and crawl. Smaller versions of the quilts can be made as lap quilts with smaller squares.

Size: 8 1/2" finished blocks 6 blocks x 6 blocks @ 51" x 51"

### SUPPLIES:

**\*Collect a stash of prewashed fabrics with texture and color contrast:** corduroy, fleece, fake fur, terrycloth, sateen, seersucker, brocade, velvets, laces, flannel, silkies, nylon, drapery, upholstery, etc. Feel the fabric, rather than looking at it.

**\*The quilt will be frequently washed.** It is best to know a fabric's wash ability by prewashing fabric before the fabric is in the quilt. The fabrics need to be washable and dryable.

**\*OPTIONAL: Collect a variety of decorations:** rickrack, laces, braids, ribbons, trims, etc.

**\*Backing:** Use prewashed high quality duck, denim or broadcloth, about 2 yards at 60" wide.

**\*Batting:** Select a poly/cotton blend or 4 oz. or less polyester batting, about 2 yards.

**\*Binding:** The quilt can be thick, depending on the fabrics used. Selfbinding with fabric works best. Take 1 1/2 yards of contrast fabric and cut into 5" wide strips.

**\*100% cotton crochet thread to tie the quilt.** We usually use white.

**\*Other needs:** cotton thread for piecing, tying needles with large eyes, basting clamps to hold the quilt while tying it, and 4" squares to use as a guide for tying.

### QUILT ASSEMBLY:

1. **Cut fabric into 9" squares.** This size includes a generous 1/4" seam allowance. You will use 36 blocks per quilt.
2. **OPTIONAL STEP: Create texture variation within a block with embellishments.** Choose some of the blocks with plainer textures and add trims or overlay eyelet to create more texture in the block. Trims can be placed in straight lines or in shapes. Use embroidery – candle wicking or French knots to imitate Braille. When using two layers, it is helpful to baste the layers together before piecing into the quilt.
3. **Lay out top with 36 blocks – 6 across and 6 down.** Use blocks that have high texture contrast to each other. Color is unimportant. Use a variety of different textures, colors, and embellished blocks. Be sure not to choose duplicates. The binding will go on more easily if the outer blocks have minimal texture. Put the thicker textures – fake fur, heavy terrycloth, and fleece – toward the center of the quilt.
4. **Stitch blocks together in rows using a generous 1/4" seam.** Press each seam in the most comfortable direction. Sew the rows together.
5. **Cut a backing from the denim, duck or broadcloth.**
6. **Cut the batting about 55" x 55".**
7. **Sandwich the quilt.** Smooth out the backing on a tabletop, right side down. Clip it down with basting clamps. Lay the batting on top centering it on the backing. Place the quilt top, right side up, on the batting and clip down.

8. **Tie the quilt.** Place a 4" square in the center of each block. Tie a square knot at each corner of the 4" square. Use a double thread of crochet yarn and loop it through the quilt twice before you tie a square knot. Trim ties to less than 1" (to prevent choking hazard).
9. **Bind the quilt.** Use fabric for the binding. Cut 4 60" long, 5" wide strips. Pin one binding strip right sides together on one side of the quilt. Sew a 2" seam. Fold binding over the top, turn the edge under 5/8" and stitch in the ditch. Repeat for the other 3 sides, finishing the corners as you go by folding them under and top stitching. More experienced quilters can finish the corners any way that you see fit.
10. **Finish the quilt** by attaching a label to the back. The label might include the maker, location, date, care instructions and a place for the child's name.