

202-1

Jacinda Boneau and Jaime Morrison
Curtis create a fun baby poncho.





Simple 1-Yard Hooded Fleece Poncho

Materials

- 1 yard fleece
- Trim- bias tape, pom poms, rick-rack, ribbon etc – minimum 4 yards
- Basic sewing supplies – string, disappearing/washable fabric pen, pins, rotary cutter, ruler, needle & thread

Measurements

Measure the recipient from fingertip to fingertip, arms stretch out. For a smaller child/toddler, you can go shorter & measure from wrist to wrist. Also measure the circumference of the child's head. For this example, we are using a wingspan measurement of 36" and a head measurement of 20" around.

Instructions

1. First you will need a circle of fleece the diameter of the child's wingspan, so 36"
 - Cut a 36" square
 - Fold the square in 1/4's to find the center and make a small dot on the back of your material.
 - Tie a marker to a string, measure 18" of string and hold the string to center dot with a pin. Work around the entire circumference with your marker.
2. Now you want to draw a smaller circle in the center, the same circumference as the child's head. Pull out your 10th grade geometry and divide the circumference by "pi" 3.14. So, in this case, Clare's 20" head worked out to 6.22" diameter or 3.1" radius. I rounded down to 3" as the fleece stretches out a bit when you sew. Draw circle.
3. Cut both circles
4. For the hood, cut a rectangle 12"x24" (optional, line hood)

5. Along one of the long sides of the hood, you can add your trim, or simply fold a hem under. For this project, we are adding bias tape. The bias tape was made with the Simplicity Bias tape maker – a favorite sewing tool. There is so much you can do with pretty bias tape (like this tape made from Joel Dewberry Modern Meadows). You can also buy bias tape on ETSY or get lots of pretty colors at your local fabric shop. Attach the bias tape using the two-step process or just wrap it around the edge and sew it on in one-step. Try not to pull as you go as both of these materials are stretchy.

You can also add another row of trim to be extra fancy. You can't go overboard when it comes to sewing for little girls. This would also work for a little boy, there are so many boy-friendly fleeces.

6. Fold the hood in half right-side-facing and sew up the opposite side. This is a great place to use a serger for a more finished seam but it isn't necessary as fleece doesn't unravel. It just looks a little nicer. If you want to save a step, you can add a little tassel or pom-pom into the seam before you sew this, just be sure to add a few back stitches to secure. That completes the hood.

7. Now attach the hood to the body. With right sides facing, pin the edges of hood "neck" to the neck hole of the poncho. The goal is for the front to overlap about an inch. Fleece is very forgiving so if it isn't measuring up perfectly, there will be a bit of stretch in the fleece.

8. Sew (or serge) all the way around the neckline. Be sure to add a few reinforcing stitches at the front trim.

9. Add trim to the bottom of your poncho - bias tape, pom-poms and fringe. You can add more rows too. Get creative! You can also add arm holes, a pocket, appliqué, or some embroidery. A monogram would be cute. This is a really fun gift item and it takes under an hour!

Visit the website to see more poncho ideas like adding a fabric-lined hood and a chart of average measurements for children so you don't have to ruin the surprise by asking mom.

**Jacinda Boneau & Jaime Morrison Curtis – PrudentBaby.com
Jacinda@prudentbaby.com**

Partners



<http://www.brothersews.com>