

Froeballs

by Katie Hanrott (<http://www.oxfordkitchenyarns.com/blog/>)



Introduction: Friedrich Froebel was an 19th Century German educator, who theorised that the learning experiences of very young children influenced their later academic achievements and - more importantly - the health of society as a whole. He is the father of 'kindergarden'. (There is lots more information here: <http://www.froebel.org.uk/>)

He devised a series of 'gifts' that encourage creative play in young children.

You can buy them here: <http://www.froebelgifts.com/>

This is my interpretation of the first gift. You can read more about the first gift here: <http://www.froebelgifts.com/gift1.htm>

Needle Suggestion: 2.75mm

Yarn Suggestion: DK weight (only a small amount is needed) in red, yellow, and blue (primary), green, purple, and orange (secondary)

Note: You want a relatively tight fabric so that the stuffing doesn't show through, but this would work just as well with 4ply, sports, worsted or aran yarn. You just might want to add/decrease a few stitches from the general recipe once you've got the hang of it, to keep the balls roughly 3" in diameter.

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Provision cast on with waste yarn - Cast on 24 stitches

Row 1 (in main yarn) - k all

Row 2 - k23, wrap next stitch and turn*

Row 3 - k22, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 4 - k21, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 5 - k20, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 6 - k19, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 7 - k18, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 8 - k17, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 9 - k16, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 10 - k15, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 11 - k14, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 12 - k13, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 13 - k12, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 14 - k11, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 15 - k10, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 16 - k9, wrap next stitch and turn

Row 17 - k8, wrap next stitch and turn

(Note: You should end up with 8 wrapped stitches at each end and 8 unwrapped stitches in the middle.)

Row 18 - k8, k to the end of the row picking up and knitting the wraps as you go
HOWEVER wrap last stitch rather than knitting it

Row 19 - k15, k to the end of the row picking up and knitting the wraps as you go
HOWEVER wrap last stitch rather than knitting it

Repeat Row 4 to Row 19 four more times

Unpick the provisional cast on and graft the final row to the first row, using a garter stitch graft**. When you have grafted about 2/3 of the way across fill the ball firmly with stuffing and then graft the final few stitches.

I-cord: Pick up three stitches around one of the ends of the ball, and knit an I-cord*** for approximately 10".

Cast off and weave all the ends in, and you're done.

(* How to wrap a stitch for short row knitting - <http://www.wikihow.com/Knit-Short-Rows>)

(**How to graft garter stitch - <http://www.wikihow.com/Knit-Invisible-Stitches-Grafting>
- about halfway down the page.)

(*** How to knit I-cord - <http://www.wikihow.com/Knit-I-Cord>)