



## Kid's Travel Toy Blanket



With vacation time and summer day trips coming, this baby travel blanket helps make trips cozier and more secure. Kathy Beymer designed this travel blanket to give her baby a soft, sanitary play area. She included VELCRO® Brand fasteners to help keep the toys in place while traveling. For more free sewing projects, visit Kathy's web page at <http://www.merrimentdesign.com> or visit our website at <http://www.velcro.com>!

### Supplies (for finished size blanket 23 x 29 ):

- ✓ 3/4 yard patterned fabric
- ✓ VELCRO® Brand Snag Free Sew-On Tape
- ✓ VELCRO® Brand FABRIC FUSION™ Iron-On Tape
- ✓ Assorted ribbons and ric rac
- ✓ An old swaddling blanket – for this project a 24" x30" size was used (alternatively, 3/4 yard of flannel fabric or polar fleece fabric)
- ✓ Fabric scissors
- ✓ Pins
- ✓ Thread
- ✓ Ironing board
- ✓ Iron
- ✓ Sewing machine
- ✓ Rotary fabric cutter, self-healing cutting mat and clear acrylic ruler



### Cut fabric

Select an old swaddling blanket that you no longer use. Alternatively, if you're using fleece/flannel, cut one piece to 24" x 30".

Cut your patterned fabric the same size as your swaddling blanket using your rotary fabric cutter, self-healing cutting mat and clear acrylic ruler.

Cut your pockets. Small books are 3.5" square so these were designed with that in mind. Cut one pocket 6.5" x 14" and a second pocket 6.5" x 10".

### Create pockets

Starting with the 14" wide pocket, turn down the top edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press. Turn down again  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press. (Note: turning down a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " is okay too). Topstitch the top of the pocket down close to the edge.

Turn down the left side and bottom of the pocket and press. Place a pin at 4" from the left side to mark where you'll be sewing down the middle to turn this one pocket into two smaller pockets. Cut two 3" pieces of VELCRO® Brand FABRIC FUSION™ Iron-On Tape. Follow package directions to adhere the VELCRO® Brand FABRIC FUSION™ Iron-On Tape onto the top of the pocket.

Adhere the other side of the VELCRO® Brand FABRIC FUSION™ tape to your blanket following package directions.

Pin your pocket in place wherever you want it to be on the blanket, matching any pattern in your fabric. Make sure to pin the pocket all the way to the seam (which is why you didn't need to turn down the right side of the pocket earlier).

Sew two rows of stitching, one very close to the edge and one  $\frac{1}{2}$ " inside. Sew two rows of stitching through the middle of the pocket to create two pockets from the one piece of fabric. For the blanket shown, this one was 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the left side.

Repeat these steps with your other pocket but this time turn down both sides of the pocket. Also, this pocket is smaller so there is no need to sew down the middle.

Tuck a ribbon loop into the left side seam of the second pocket for a little extra touch of cuteness.

### Create border with ribbon, ric rac and VELCRO® Brand Snag Free fasteners

Choose an assortment of ribbons and ric rac – satin, grosgrain, tulle, metallic, sewn, patterned, go nuts!

Cut enough so that you have ribbon, ric rac or VELCRO® Brand Snag Free tape every 3-4". This means for each 24" side you'll need 6 to 8 ribbons and VELCRO® Brand Snag Free tape, and for each 30" side you'll need 8 to 10 ribbons, for a total of about 28 to 36 ribbons. Cut ribbons into 4 pieces each.

You'll notice in the blanket photos that ribbons and ric rack stack together in some places to add textural interest, so you should cut even more ribbons if you plan on combining them.

Cut 4 to 6 pieces of VELCRO® Snag Free Sew On Tape 8-10" long each depending on the toy that you want to attach with the Snag Free tape.

Pin the ribbons, ric rac and VELCRO® Snag Free around the blanket about 3-4" apart. Stack ribbons together where you want to add some interest.

Sew around the blanket  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to affix the ribbons, ric rac and one end of the VELCRO® Brand Snag Free tape, leaving the other end of the piece loose. Stitch back and forth over the ribbons to assure a strong attachment.

### Sew blanket shut

With right sides together, pin the front fabric to the swaddling blanket, sandwiching the ribbon and one end of the VELCRO® brand Snag Free tape between the layers.

Sew around the blanket using a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, making sure to leave 12" on the bottom open so that you can turn the blanket right-side-out in a few steps. Trim your corners up a bit so they'll lay flat when turned.

Turn your blanket right-side-out through the bottom hole. Fiddle with the corners until they're nice and smooth. Iron your blanket perimeter to get it ready for topstitching.

Turn down the bottom opening so raw edges are inside. Pin shut. Sew around the entire blanket close to the edge. This will topstitch the blanket which looks nice and at the same time you'll be sewing your blanket shut.

Attach toys and add books. **Happy travels!**

