

# Octopus pattern for Preemies



The octopus acts as a calming aid. The tentacles replicate the umbilical cord which babies hold onto in the womb which babies normally play with. The octopuses make them feel grounded and safe. Also, with the tentacles to hold, babies are less likely to pull out tubes and essential monitoring equipment cables that are attached to their bodies. They can be donated to neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) of your local hospital.

A small hook and thin yarn are used to produce a very small octopus. Using large hooks or a heavier cotton will produce a larger octopus. You want a tight product so no stuffing shows and tiny fingers cannot slip thru the head portion. Cotton yarn must be used so they can be easily washed and cotton does not leave the fiber residues that regular yarn will in the baby's mouth.

For Yarn, super fine (1) or fine (2) and a C hook. Keep moving your marker as you go to keep track of your rows.

**Make a magic ring.**

Row 1: 6 SC into ring (6 stitches)

Row 2: 2 SC into each stitch (12 stitches)

Row 3: \*SC in next stitch, 2 SC in next stitch, repeat from \* (18 stitches)

Row 4: \*SC in next 2 stitches, 2 SC in next stitch, repeat from \* (24 stitches)

Row 5: \*SC in next 3 stitches, 2 SC in next stitch, repeat from \* (30 stitches)

Row 6: \*SC in next 4 stitches, 2 SC in next stitch, repeat from \* (36 stitches)

Row 7-12: SC into each stitch (36 stitches)

Row 13: \*SC in next 4 stitches, SC 2 together, repeat from \* (30 stitches)

Row 14: SC into each stitch (30 stitches)

Row 15: \*SC in next 3 stitches, SC 2 together, repeat from \* (24 stitches)

Row 16: SC into each stitch (24 stitches)

Row 17: \*SC in next 2 stitches, SC 2 together, repeat from \* (18 stitches)

Row 18: \*SC in next stitch, SC 2 together, repeat from \* (12 stitches)

**Stuff octopus**

Row 19: Work in the front loop only, \*SC in next stitch, SC 2 together, repeat from \* (8 stitches)

**Make Tentacles**

\*Chain 50, SC in 2nd chain from hook. 2 SC in each chain across. When back to the body, slipstitch in the next stitch. Repeat from \* Seven (7) more times to make 8 tentacles. Close up any holes underneath where stuffing may come out.

**Make Eyes:** take black embroidery thread and sew in eyes if you want any in. Do not put in any buttons or other types of eyes as these are for preemies AND would be a danger.