



Baby's First Zoo Buddies

Crochet Pattern

****Remember-small elements present a choking hazard to small children/pets. You may simply embroider eyes with yarn, to make these more baby appropriate. Always check for loose pieces before allowing children under 3 to play with finished items.****

Materials Used:

Any yarn-seriously, any brand, any weight, any style you like

Size G/6 (4.25mm) crochet hook

Buttons, beads, safety eyes, jiggle-eyes, fun fur, any embellishments you choose

Poly-fil for stuffing

Yarn needle

Needle and thread

Size/Gauge:

Finished size of animals is approximately 5" tall, when sitting, or 6" tall when standing.

Gauge is not important to this project, so you can change hook size and yarn weight for a wider range of finished sizes.

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Stitches Used/Abbreviations:

Ch-chain

Sc-single crochet

Sc2tog-single crochet two stitches together

Hdc-half double crochet

Dc-double crochet

Sl st-slip stitch

Magic Circle-Make a large loop by putting the yarn tail behind the working yarn (the yarn coming from the skein), leaving at least a six-inch tail until you become familiar with this method. With your hook, draw the working yarn through the loop, so you have one loop on the hook. Now, you can start working your stitches in the ring, just as you would with the chain method. You will pull the tail tight, once all stitches are worked in the ring, leaving a nice, tight closure.

Instructions: (NOTE- you can stuff and embellish as you go, or wait till the end. Whichever way works best for you!)

Head: (FOR ALL)

Rnd 1: Start with a Magic Circle, ch 1. Work 8 sc in ring. Join. Pull ring tight. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1. Work 2 sc in each st around. Join. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1. *Sc in next st, work 2 sc in the next st*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (24 sts)

Rnd 4: ch 1. *Sc in each of the next 2 sts, work 2 sc in next st*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (32 sts)

Rnds 5-8: ch 1. Sc in each st around. Join. (32 sts)

Rnd 9: ch 1. *Sc in each of the next 2 sts, sc2tog*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (24 sts)

Rnd 10: ch 1. Sc in each st around. Join. (24 sts)

Rnd 11: ch 1. *Sc in next st, sc2tog*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (16 sts)

Rnd 12: ch 1. Sc2tog, 8 times. Join. Fasten off.

Body: (FOR ALL)

Rnd 1: Start with a Magic Circle, ch 1. Work 8 sc in ring. Join. Pull ring tight. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1. Work 2 sc in each st around. Join. (16 sts)

Rnd 3: ch 1. *Sc in next st, work 2 sc in the next st*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (24 sts)

Rnds 4-8: ch 1. Sc in each st around. Join. (24 sts)

Rnd 9: ch 1. *Sc in next st, sc2tog*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (16 sts)

Rnd 10: ch 1. Sc2tog, 8 times. Join. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

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Arms/Legs: (FOR ALL~Make 4)

Rnd 1: Start with a Magic Circle, ch 1. Work 8 sc in ring. Join. Pull ring tight. (8 sts)

Rnds 2-5: ch 1. Sc in each st around. Join. (8 sts) Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Giraffe or Zebra Muzzle:

Rnd 1: ch 3. Work 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook. Work 4 sc in last ch. Working the opposite side of the ch, work 2 sc in last st. Join. (8 sts)

Rnd 2: Working in BLO for this entire rnd, ch 1. Work 2 sc in next st. Sc in each of the next 2 sts. Work 2 sc in each of the next 2 sts. Sc in each of the next 2 sts. Work 2 sc in last st. Join. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Hippo Muzzle:

Rnd 1: ch 5. Work 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook. Sc in each of the next 2 chs. Work 4 sc in last ch. Working the opposite side of the ch, sc in each of the next 2 sts. Work 2 sc in last st. Join. (12 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1. *Work 2 sc in next st, sc in each of the next 2 sts*. Repeat (*) around. Join. (16 sts)

Rnd 2: Working in BLO for this entire rnd, ch 1. Sc in each of the next 7 sts. Work 2 sc in next st. Sc in each of the next 7 sts. Work 2 sc in last st. Join. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Hippo Teeth: (Make 2)

Ch 2. Work 2 hdc in 2nd ch from hook. Sl st in same ch. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Monkey Face:

Rnd 1: ch 6. Work 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook. Sc in each of the next 3 chs. Work 4 sc in last ch. Working the opposite side of the ch, sc in each of the next 3 sts. Work 2 sc in last st. Join. (14 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 2. Work 4 dc in next st. Ch 2. Sl st in each of the next 3 sts. Ch 2. Work 4 dc in next st. Ch 2. Sl st in next st. Work 2 hdc in each of the next 2 sts. Hdc in next st. Work 2 hdc in next st. Hdc in next st. Work 2 hdc in each of the last 2 sts. Join. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Monkey Ears (Make 2)

Row 1: ch 2. Work 5 hdc in 2nd ch from hook. (5 sts)

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Row 2: ch 1, TURN. Work 2 sc in next st. Work 1 sc in next st. Work 2 sc in next st. Work 1 sc in next st. Work 2 sc in last st. (8 sts)

Row 3: ch 1, TURN. Work 2 sc in each st across. (16 sts) Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Giraffe, Zebra or Hippo Ears: (Make 2)

Row 1: ch 3. Work 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, and next ch. (4 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, TURN. Sc2tog, 2 times. (2 sts)

Row 3: ch 1, TURN. Sc2tog. Fasten off.

Ch 1, DO NOT TURN. Sc in 2 sts down side. Work 2 sc in corner. Sc in next st. Work 2 sc in next corner. Sc in 2 sts up opposite side. Ch 2. Sc in 2nd ch from hook. Sl st to 1st sc st. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

Monkey Tail:

Rnd 1: ch 2. Work 4 sc in 2nd ch from hook. (4 sts) (Place stitch marker, if desired.)

Rnds 2-12: DO NOT JOIN. Continue working 1 sc in each st around. Fasten off, after rnd 12, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Giraffe Horns: (Make 2)

Rnd 1: Start with a Magic Circle. Ch 1. Work 4 sc in ring. Join. Pull ring tight. (4 sts)

Rnd 2: ch 1. Working in BLO for this rnd, sc in each st around. Join. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Giraffe Spots: (Make desired amount)

Row 1: ch 4. Sc in 2nd ch from hook, and each remaining ch. (3 sts)

Row 2: ch 1, TURN. Work 2 sc in 1st st. Sc in each of the next 2 sts. (4 sts)

Row 3: ch 1, TURN. Sc2tog. Sc in each of the next 2 sts. (3 sts)

Edge: ch 1, DO NOT TURN. Sc around entire outer edge, working 2 sc in each corner. Join. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Tail for Hippo, Giraffe, or Zebra:

Cut 3 strands of yarn, 2.5 times as long as you want the finished length of the tail. Slip all 3 through one stitch at center back of body, near the bottom, to the halfway point of yarn. Separate into 3 sections of 2 strands each, and braid. Tie off. Trim ends.

Assembly:

Create all parts for desired animal. For "hooves" on Giraffe, Hippo or Zebra, use a contrasting color to complete the 1st 2 rnds of the arms/legs, and the body color to complete the remaining rnds.

For Monkey: Sew face to center front of head. Place eyes in center of dc sections. Stitch on a mouth, if desired. Sew ears to sides of head. Sew arms and legs in desired positions on body. Sew body to head. Sew tail to center back of body, near bottom.

For Zebra: Create head and body stripes, by alternating black and white yarn either every other row, or every 2 rows. (Model alternated every other row). Sew muzzle to center front of head, lining bottom of muzzle between rnds 9-10. Place eyes above muzzle, at either end. Sew ears near center top of head, with points sticking straight up. Cut several lengths of black and white yarn, and tie securely to top and back of head, for mane. Sew arms and legs in desired positions on body. Sew body to head. Attach tail to center back of body, near bottom.

For Giraffe: Sew muzzle to center front of head, lining bottom of muzzle between rnds 9-10. Place eyes above muzzle, at either end. Stitch horns in center top of head. Place ears on either side of horns, with points sticking out to the sides, and sew securely in place. Sew arms and legs in desired positions on body. Sew body to head. Place spots in desired positions on back of head and body, and stitch in place. Attach tail to center back of body, near bottom.

For Hippo: Sew muzzle to center front of head, lining bottom of muzzle between rnds 9-10. Sew each tooth in place on muzzle, just below rnd 1. Place eyes above muzzle, at either end. Place ears near center top of head, with points down, and sew in place. Sew arms and legs in desired positions on body. Sew body to head. Attach tail to center back of body, near bottom.

Other Ideas: Add a few jingle bells while stuffing to make a fun rattle. Add a little catnip for an awesome cat toy. Add loops for hanging to make cute ornaments. Fill with beans or plastic pellets for "hacky-sack" toys.

Simple color changes open the way for new varieties of animals, too! For example, if you change the Zebra to solid colors, you have a Horse!