



This is Maggie with her dad on the day he learned to knit.

Maggie is—as the

kids say—the most amazingest knitter in the world. She taught herself to knit five years ago (after watching Elizabeth Zimmerman's "Knitting Workshop" A LOT). One year later she gave classes at the public library. Linda, one of her students who worked at the public library, got so excited about knitting she offered knitting classes during the 2007 Summer Reading Program. When Linda went to work at the Haines School Library in 2008 she asked Maggie

to help her start a knitting program after school to enrich the skills the students learn in second grade with their teacher Jeanne Kitayama.



## Our First Hat Pattern: Rolled Brim Hat



Needles: Size US 7, 16" circular needles and a set of size 7 double-pointed needles (dpns)

Yarn: Worsted weight, one skein

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Cast on 90 stitches

Join and work in round, place marker to designate beginning of round.

Knit every round until hat measures 6 to 6.5"

Decrease as follows:

Round 1: \*K13, K2tog, rep from \*

Round 2: Knit

Round 3: \*K12, K2tog, rep from \*

Round 4: Knit

Continue in this manner until 48 stitches remain, then decrease every round until 6 sts. remain. (Move to dpns when it is no longer comfortable to knit on the circular needle.)

Cut yarn and use a darning needle to draw through remaining stitches.

Weave in stitches. Show off hat to your friends.



Haines School Library  
PO Box 2089  
Haines, AK 99827  
907 766 6733



# NIFTY knitters



An afterschool program that enriches classroom learning and encourages social interaction with people of all ages.

"Knitting is more fun than playing video games," says first grade student Brice. He and his mother joined the Nifty Knitters at the insistence of Christopher, who is pictured below showing off his first knitting project.

The Nifty Knitters is open to people of all ages and meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

The Nifty Knitters program is currently supported by donations of yarn, needles and books from people and businesses inside and outside the community. The knitters also sell their knitted masterpieces at local bazaars and in the school library. For new knitters, we provide a project list to keep them challenged and learning new skills. We start with 6" squares to teach garter stitch, then add a washcloth to teach

Teachers are also using knitting in the classroom to help kids focus and as a way to create community.

"The biggest thing I've noticed is the social networking and positive group dynamic," shared fifth-grade teacher Jansy Hansen. "It's been fun to watch some of the shyer students become more empowered through their knitting

how to read a pattern with YO and K2tog; a scarf to teach purl and changing colors; a hat to teach how to use circular and double-pointed needles and decreasing; a bag to learn how to felt and create i-cord; mittens to teach shaping, fair isle techniques, and how to pick up stitches; and, to keep their feet warm, socks.

The library is also receiving and purchasing a variety of books to inspire the knitters—of all

because they are the ones everyone turns to for help."

Educators across the nation are reporting that good things happen when you teach kids to knit. In Haines, kids are teaching friends and family and boasting "knitting is cool at Haines School." We invite you to stop by and see the knitters in action.

ages. For example, "Chic Knits for Young Chicks" by Sarah Paulin inspired fourth grade students to knit shrugs, purses, shawls and tube tops.

### How You Can Help

Any items you can donate to help the knitters with their projects and stay inspired would be greatly appreciated. For more information, call Linda Moyer at 907 766 6733.



books rule and

# knitting is cool @ Haines School Library