Simple Knitted Scarf

The Snowman™ wouldn’t be complete without his famous scarf and scarves make a great first project when learning to knit. Knitting is a craft often taught within families, but school is a great place to learn this skill.

Knitting has numerous educational benefits including the development of fine motor skills, maths and spacial recognition, not to mention patience, focus and perseverance.

You will need

- Wool in double knit or thicker. The thicker the wool the quicker the results
- Needles – the size of needle required will depend on the wool used
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Form a slip knot in your wool, place it on your left needle and hold the working wool in your right hand.
2. Cast on between 15 – 30 stitches depending on how wide you want your scarf to be. For a super chunky wool, 15 stitches will be plenty. There are various methods for casting on, but the knitting on method will produce a nice clean edge for your scarf. To cast on in this method, insert your right needle into the slip knot from front to back, bring your working wool around the end of your right needle and use the tip to guide that loop through the slip knot on the left needle. Pull the working wool up to form a long loop and place that loop onto the end of your left needle. You will now have two stitches on your left needle. Repeat these steps until you have cast on your desired number of stitches.

3. You are now ready to knit. Knitting all rows will result in a garter stitch scarf. Garter stitch produces a reversible, flat finish which doesn’t roll at the sides and is perfect for scarves.

4. To knit, take your needle with the cast on stitches in your left hand, insert the right hand needle into the front of the first stitch, loop the wool in your right hand around the tip of the right needle. Pull the working wool up into a loop and let the stitch on the left needle fall off. You should now have transferred your first stitch from the left to the right needle. Repeat this step until all the stitches have transferred onto the right needle.
5. Turn your work around so that the needle with the stitches on is in your left hand and repeat the knitting and watch the rows grow.

6. When you are happy with the length of your scarf, cast off all your stitches.
7. To cast off, knit the first two stitches then lift the first stitch up over the second stitch and off the end of the needle leaving one stitch. Knit the next stitch and repeat until you have one stitch left on the needle. Cut a tail of 10-15cm and carefully slide your final stitch off the needle and thread the tail through the loop. Use a large needle to weave the ends into the scarf so that they can’t be seen.
8. More advanced knitters can try different stitch finishes by alternating each row or each stitch with a knit and a purl to create a moss or a stockinette stitch. You can also add tassels, pom-poms or applique wintery motifs onto your scarf.

There is a useful rhyme which is often used to help children learn to knit, as follows:

**How to Knit**

In through the front door
Around the back
Out through the window
And off jumps jack.

(Waldorf)