

**Book Bag**  
(design developed by Ina May)

The following directions will make a book bag for our *Early Literacy for Families Book Bag* project we will be doing for our community.

From a 45 " wide piece of fabric you can make two bags. A fat quarter will make one bag.

- Cut 1 strip 14-1/2" wide
- Cut 1 strip 2-1/2" wide
- Cut the 14-1/2" wide strip in half so you now have 2 pieces 14-1/2" by 21-22" after selvages are cut off.

Fold down 1/4" along the top (long) edge. If you have a serger, serge the top edge. Then fold down a hem of 1-1/2" for the top of the bag (1-1/4" to include the 1/4" you turned down first). If using a serger, just turn down the whole 1-1/2" hem. Stitch the hem down.

Fold the piece in half and stitch the side and bottom of the bag. Use a serger or sew a good 1/4" to 3/8" seam. If your fabric will fray, you should zig-zag the seam.

If you want a nicer finished top, sew your side and bottom seams before you turn the hem down and stitch it in place. This will cover the seam at the edge.

Now use the 2-1/2" strip to make the handles. Fold and press one long edge in 1/4", then fold the whole strip in thirds with the 1/4" fold on top. Stitch along the fold the whole length of the strip, and you may also choose to stitch a second row of stitching to strengthen the handle. Cut the strip into 4 equal pieces. Place the handles on the inside of each side of your bag, stitching them about 3-1/4" in from the sides of the bag and attaching them with stitching at the top edge and at the bottom edge of the hem.

If your fabric is too light weight, you may wish to line the bag to make it sturdier. You may use quilted pieces the size suggested above or children's prints, denim, or other fabrics you have on hand that will make a nice bag for a new mother to take home with her newborn. It will be filled with books and other helpful information.

Have fun helping a new child develop a love of learning. This is a worthwhile project for all of us to be a part of for our children's futures.

Contact Ina May if you should have any questions about making the book bag.