

## Horse Reins

In your pack you will have two balls of yarn, one piece of hessian with the sides ironed down (please do not sew too close to this folded edge). Briar Rose families were also given a needle, while Mother Holle will still have their needle from the pillow project you finished from last term.



### Embroidering the bodice

1. Draw a design for your child to embroider on the piece of hessian (give them a choice of no more than 2). Make this something very simple; a fish, boat, dolphin, star, etc. Preferably with long straight lines included and no or very little short lines as they may not be visible with stitching. See examples below.
2. Have your child select what colour they want to start with.
3. Have them hold their arms out to the sides with the end of the wool in one hand and the ball in the other – this is referred to as a scarecrow length (we have used this year already so they may be familiar with it). This is how long you need each piece of wool they use for a double thread.
4. Thread the needle and knot the two ends together – this makes a double thread.
5. Start your child off by drawing the needle from underneath the work at one end of a line of the drawing. “The dolphin jumps up out of the water and dives back down again”
6. They are then using ‘dolphin stitch’ which is a simple running stitch and following the line to create the bodice for their horse reins.

“The dolphin jumps up out of the water and dives back down again”. The smaller the stitches the clearer the image will be.

7. Any time you need to change colours or require another piece of thread simply knot the last thread off at the back of the work using a double knot and begin again at the back of the work.
8. When the front is complete it is time to sew the flannelette backing and the reins (double finger knitting on).



### Sewing the bodice together

For this part we are using a simple over stitch. If you feel it will be easier for your child they can continue to use the dolphin stitch but will need to do so close to the edge of the bodice so the hem remains inside. Either is fine. If you have a blunt ended needle you may need to find another sharper needle or use another needle to make the hole in the flannelette prior to going through it – this part will need adult assistance.

1. Iron down the edges of the flannelette to be the same size as your piece of hessian (photo 1).
2. For this sewing we need to use a single thread as a double is too thick to go through the flannelette. This will mean one end is loose and able to be pulled from the needle – remind your child that they need to not pull the needle too hard as it will pull out the thread. Make it half a scarecrow length.
3. Make a double knot and pull it up in one corner of the hessian (see photo) this will hide the knot inside the work (photo 2 and 3).
4. Stitching along the top or bottom of the bodice – using over stitch you will wrap the yarn over the top and back up through the flannelette on the underside -making a kind of loop (see photo 4 and 5). As it is quite thick you will need to put the needle through the flannelette separately to the hessian. Push the needle into one layer, then into the next. A sharper needle would help here.
5. Repeat step 4 until you get to a side.



### Sewing the reins on

1. Ensure that the double finger knitting measures 1.5cm minimum.
2. Knot the two ends of the double finger knitting together – these are your reins (photo 1).
3. Fold the reins in half with the ends at one end and a loop at the other. This is the middle of the reins and will go behind your child's neck. Place the bodice in between the two sides of the reins and work out where your child's head will be, ensuring there is enough room to put it over their head (photo 2).



4. Pin both sides with safety pins to hold in place while you check and your child sews to make sure it will fit.
5. Continue stitching the two pieces together and also through the centre of the finger knitting down the side on each side using which ever stitch you chose at the beginning of the project. You will need to push the needle through one piece at a time as it is quite thick (photo 3, 4 and 5).
6. When you get to the end of the project or run out of thread and need to finish the thread off, simply pull through one layer of fabric only and do a double knot on the inside.



To use the reins, simply put the small loop over your child's head onto the back of their neck, the sewn piece at their chest and the long loop goes over their head, under their arms and behind their back forming the reins. Please be sure not to leave small children unattended with this toy as it could become a choking hazard.