

# creature camp

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Kid  
Tested &  
Approved!



Make Your Own • 18 Softies to Draw, Sew & Stuff



# stitched eyes

The easiest eyes are simply little stitches. I love the cartoony look of them. They're safe for even the youngest babies. Here's how to make them.



*Let your imagination go wild with materials to use for eyes*

1. Draw a little up and down line where you want to place the eye. The length depends on the size of your softie, but this method works best for small eyes. Don't make the line any longer than about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
2. Draw a matching eye—as close to the same length as possible—where you want it. After you stitch the eye, it will look bigger. Draw both eyes now so you have matching guides to get the same finished size.
3. Thread your needle with embroidery thread, yarn, or regular sewing thread. Tie a knot at the end, leaving a loooooong tail—at least 3" long.
4. Starting at the bottom of the eye, bring your thread up from the back. Go back into the top of the eye and pull your thread through. Not too tight! You don't want to crinkle up the fabric behind your eye. That's one stitch.
5. Take a look. If the eye isn't as full as you want it to be, repeat Step 4 for another stitch. And another. And another. Keep taking stitches until the eye is as fat as you want it to be. I often take 2 or 3 stitches. Keep track of how many stitches you use so you can make the other eye exactly the same way.
6. Remember that long tail you left in Step 3? Now you're going to put it to use. Tie your working thread to your tail in a square knot (page 16) and snip off the ends. Not too close! Leave at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " so your knot doesn't come undone.
7. Repeat Steps 3–6 for the second eye.

## No Scarface!

Are you wondering why you don't stitch the first eye, pass the thread across the back, stitch the second eye, and *then* tie your knot? Well, if your fabric is *really* thick and a dark color you can do that, but it's risky. Most of the time you stitch the eyes using dark thread, which has a tendency to show through almost *any* fabric when it's stuffed. It's no fun to get through all the work of making a softie and then find out—after you stuff it—that there is a big ugly line showing right through the middle of the face. I say, better safe than sorry. Take the extra minute to tie off the thread behind each eye.