Crochet Kids Hooded Poncho

PATTERN

A chunky, cozy hooded poncho for little ones - oversized cowl hood, wide elbow-length sleeves, a big kangaroo pocket and wooden side buttons. Made from simple rectangles in bulky yarn.



The finished hooded poncho: taupe bulky yarn, cowl hood, kangaroo pocket, wooden buttons and a cream hem band.

Finished size	Age 4-6: approx. 55 cm (21 1/2 in) wide x 46 cm (18 in) long; sizes for ages 2-8 included	**Skill level**	Beginner
Time	About 6 to 8 hours (one weekend)	**Terms**	US crochet terms

This poncho is built the easy way: two flat rectangles form the front and back, a third rectangle folds into the hood, and a fourth becomes the kangaroo pocket. Everything is worked in half double crochet with bulky yarn and a big hook, so it grows quickly and there is no shaping to keep track of. The counts below are for age 4-6; the size table shows the changes for ages 2-4 and 6-8.

Materials

- Bulky-weight (#5) yarn in **taupe / mushroom brown**, approx. 450 g (4 x 100 g balls) for age 4-6 - 350 g for age 2-4, 550 g for age 6-8
- Bulky-weight yarn in **cream / natural**, approx. 40 g - hem band
- 10 mm (US N/P-15) crochet hook
- 6 wooden buttons, approx. 25 mm (1 in)
- Large-eye yarn needle and scissors
- Tape measure; stitch markers or safety pins

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
sc	single crochet	**hdc**	half double crochet
st(s)	stitch(es)	**RS**	right side

Gauge: 8 hdc x 6 rows = 10 cm (4 in) with bulky yarn and a 10 mm hook. Check your gauge before you start - with only 8 stitches per 10 cm, one stitch of difference changes the width noticeably.

Sizes

Size	Panel chain	Sts per row	Panel rows	Yarn (main)
2-4 years	Ch 41	40 hdc	25 rows	approx. 350 g
4-6 years	Ch 45	44 hdc	28 rows	approx. 450 g
6-8 years	Ch 49	48 hdc	31 rows	approx. 550 g

For the other sizes, scale the hood and pocket with the panels: hood chain 33 (age 2-4) or 41 (age 6-8), 18 or 22 rows; pocket chain 21 or 29, 10 or 14 rows. Shoulder seams stay 14 cm; leave the neck opening at 27 cm for every size.

Back Panel (taupe)



Step 1 - yarn, big hook, and the back panel started.

Foundation: Ch 45.

Row 1: Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook (the skipped chs count as the first hdc) and in each ch across. **[44 hdc]**

Rows 2-28: Ch 2 (counts as first hdc), turn. Hdc in each st across. **[44 hdc]**

The panel should measure approx. 55 cm (21 1/2 in) wide x 46 cm (18 in) long. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Front Panel (taupe)



Step 2 - working the front panel rows.

Work exactly as the Back Panel: ch 45, 44 hdc per row, 28 rows. Lay the two panels together and check they match before seaming - add or pull out a row now if one has drifted.

Hem band (both panels)

With RS facing, join the cream yarn at one bottom corner of a panel. Work 3 rows of sc evenly across the bottom edge (44 sc per row), ch 1 and turn at the end of each row. Fasten off. Repeat on the second panel. This garter-look band stops the hem from curling.

Joining & Sleeve Openings



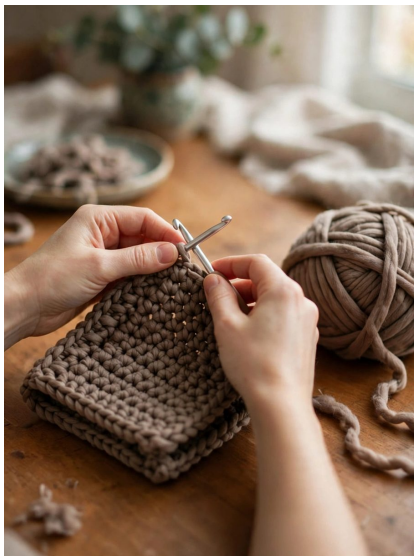
Step 3 - seaming the shoulders and sides.

1. Shoulders: lay the front panel on the back panel, RS together. With taupe yarn and a yarn needle, whipstitch each shoulder from the outside edge inward for 14 cm (5 1/2 in). Leave the centre 27 cm (10 1/2 in) open for the neck.

2. Sides: from the hem, whipstitch up each side for 18 cm (7 in), then stop. The open section above each side seam is the wide elbow-length sleeve opening.

3. Turn the poncho right side out and try it on: the hem should fall to about mid-thigh, and the neck opening should slip on easily.

Hood (taupe)



Step 4 - crocheting the hood rectangle.

Foundation: Ch 37.

Row 1: Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. **[36 hdc]**

Rows 2-20: Ch 2, turn. Hdc in each st across. **[36 hdc]**

The hood piece measures approx. 45 cm (18 in) wide x 33 cm (13 in) tall. Fold it in half with the fold running vertically and whipstitch one long edge closed - this seam is the back of the hood; the other long edge is the face opening. Pin the bottom edge of the hood evenly around the neck opening, back seam at centre back, and whipstitch it in place.

Kangaroo Pocket (taupe)



Step 5 - sewing on the kangaroo pocket.

Foundation: Ch 25.

Row 1: Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. **[24 hdc]**

Rows 2-12: Ch 2, turn. Hdc in each st across. **[24 hdc]**

The pocket measures approx. 30 cm (12 in) wide x 20 cm (8 in) tall. Fold the two top corners down at a 45-degree angle to form the slanted hand openings and tack each fold with a couple of stitches.

Centre the pocket on the front panel with its bottom edge approx. 8 cm (3 in) above the hem band, pin, and whipstitch along the bottom and up both sides, leaving the slanted top edges open.

Buttons & Finishing



Step 6 - the finished poncho, hood up, hands in the pocket.

Sew three wooden buttons down each side seam, evenly spaced along the sewn section, stitching through both layers - they are decorative and help the side seams lie flat. Weave in all remaining ends. Lay the poncho flat overnight, or give the seams a gentle steam, so the stitches settle.

3 Tips for a Perfect Kids Poncho

1. Measure your child, not the size label. Children of the same age vary hugely. Measure the chest and choose the panel that gives at least 15 cm (6 in) of positive ease - a poncho should swing, not fit snugly.

2. Count every few rows. With bulky yarn it is easy to miss the last stitch of a row, and a panel that quietly narrows will not seam up neatly. Count every 4 rows and keep both panels identical.

3. Choose washable yarn. Kids' ponchos live hard lives. A bulky acrylic or acrylic-wool blend survives the wash and keeps its shape season after season.

Happy crocheting! Pull it on, pop the hood up, and watch those little hands disappear into the pocket.