# Crochet Strawberry Baby Dress: Free Long Sleeve Pattern, 3 to 12 Months

Crochet a plain yoke from the neck down in rows, lap the two back edges and join, work a short bodice, then a gathered skirt with raised ribs that flares out to a shell hem. The sleeves are worked down from the armholes and gathered into a cuff, a red chain is crocheted round the waist, and eight small flat strawberries are sewn on. There are no seams and no buttons. In DK yarn on a 4 mm hook the 6 month dress is about 46.5 cm round the chest and 33 cm long.

This pattern differs from the picture in four ways.

- No buttons. Its four red buttons down the front are, on this dress, four dots of red yarn embroidered flat, or nothing. The back laps over to open instead.
- Nothing hangs. Its bow holds two strawberries on cords. Here the bow is optional and sewn down flat, and the two strawberries are sewn flat just under it.
- Flat strawberries. Its strawberries are raised and knobbly. Ours are worked flat in single crochet and sewn down all round.
- A plain bodice. Its bodice looks more textured. Ours is plain double crochet.

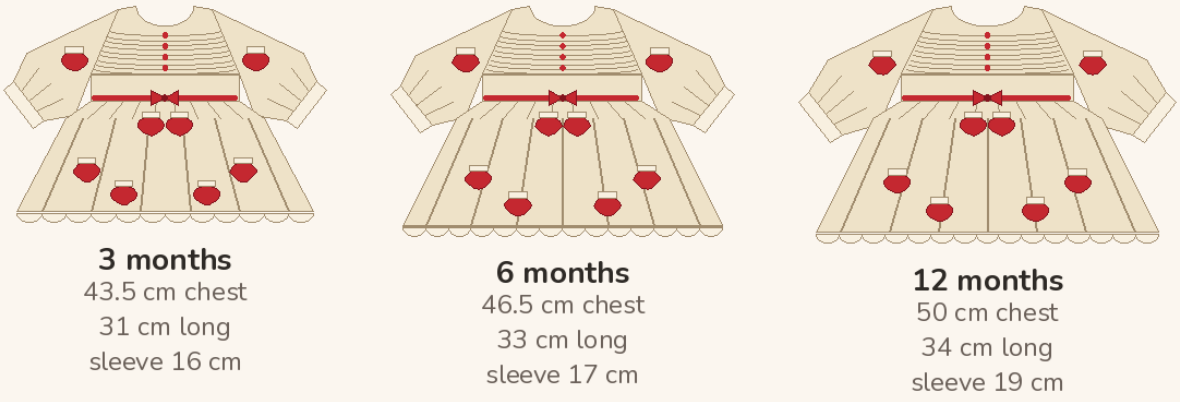
This pattern is adapted from Khadija Croche's video, which is below. Her dress is the same kind: a cream baby dress with long sleeves, worked from the neck down, with red strawberries. The sizes, the counts, the stitches and the lapped back are our own; hers buttons at the front. A script re-works every row and round against the one before it, and checks the chest against published baby measurements, the neck opening against the size of a baby's head, the sleeves against a baby's arm and hand, and the skirt against its flare rule. The sizes are worked out from a planning gauge, so they are estimates: measure Row 1 before you go on.

Skill level: easy. Every stitch is a basic one: chain, slip stitch, single crochet, double crochet, a front post double crochet for the ribs and a shell of 5 double crochet. The sleeves and the strawberries take patience more than skill.


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## Pick your size

| Size | Baby's chest | Dress chest | Neck edge, opens to | Sleeve, cuff | Length | Hem | Yarn, about |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 months | 16 in (40.5 cm) | about 43.5 cm | 26.5 cm, opens to 46.5 cm | 16 cm, cuff 14 cm | about 31 cm | about 86.5 cm | 415 m A, 25 m B |
| 6 months | 17 in (43 cm) | about 46.5 cm | 30 cm, opens to 50 cm | 17 cm, cuff 14 cm | about 33 cm | about 93.5 cm | 480 m A, 25 m B |
| 12 months | 18 in (45.5 cm) | about 50 cm | 33.5 cm, opens to 53.5 cm | 19 cm, cuff 15 cm | about 34 cm | about 100 cm | 540 m A, 25 m B |




The baby's chest is the body measurement from our baby clothing measurements (https://crochetbabygifts.com/baby-clothing-measurements/) page, which adds 1 to 2 inches of ease for a top, so the dress is 2.5 to 4.5 cm bigger round the chest than the baby, measured just under the arms. The length runs from the back of the neck to the tips of the shells. It reaches the Craft Yarn Council's tunic length for a child, the back waist length plus 15 cm. The


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skirt is gathered to about 1.3 times the chest at the waist and flares to about 2 times the chest at the hem.

The neck has to go over the baby's head, and a crochet neck edge hardly stretches. So the yoke is worked flat and the back stays open down to the underarms. At the underarm the two back edges are lapped over each other and joined, and when the dress is on the yoke holds them closed. Spread out, the neck opening goes round about 46.5 (50, 53.5) cm, and the heads it has to clear are 42.9 (45.8, 48.6) cm: the World Health Organization's head size at 3, 6 and 12 months that only about 2 babies in 100 are bigger than, taking the boys' figures because they are the larger. That leaves at least 2 cm to spare without counting on any stretch.

The sleeves are long and full, and the cuff has to let the hand through. Each armhole goes round about 19.5 (20.5, 21.5) cm, at least 5 cm more than the Craft Yarn Council's upper arm at that age, 14 (15.5, 16.5) cm. Each sleeve is about 16 (17, 19) cm from the underarm to the edge of the cuff, and the council's arm length to the underarm is 15.5 (16.5, 19) cm. The cuff goes round about 14 (14, 15) cm without stretching. In a 1977 US survey of babies, published by NIST as AnthroKids, the smallest hole a baby's hand could be pulled through, fingers together, measured 39.9 (40.3, 43) mm across for the biggest 5 hands in 100 at 3 to 5, 6 to 8 and 12 to 15 months, which is 12.5 (12.7, 13.5) cm round. That leaves at least 1 cm to spare, and the same survey puts the wrist at 11.1 (11.2, 12.6) cm round for the biggest 5 in 100, so the cuff sits loose.

## What you need

Every tool our patterns use is on the Crochet essentials (https://crochetbabygifts.com/essentials/) page.

- DK (#3) baby yarn in two colours: A, cream, for the dress and the tops of the strawberries, and B, red, for the strawberries, the waist chain and the bow. The amounts are in the size table. A smooth cotton blend shows the ribs best.
- A 4 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letter near it.
- Two stitch markers, a blunt tapestry needle, sewing pins and scissors.

The strawberries and the bow are crochet and are sewn down flat. This dress has no fastener of any kind, and nothing hangs from it.


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## Gauge and abbreviations

Gauge: about 18 double crochet and 10 rows to 10 cm (4 in) on a 4 mm hook. We have not measured this on the dress yet. It is a planning figure, and every size on this page is worked out from it. We take a single crochet round as half a double crochet round tall, and a rib round or a shell round as one.

The quick check is Row 1: the neck edge should measure about 26.5 (30, 33.5) cm. If it is much longer or shorter, change your hook by half a size.

US crochet terms throughout. The UK name is in brackets.

- ch: chain. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). sk: skip.
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- sc2tog: single crochet 2 together (UK: double crochet 2 together), one stitch made over the next two.
- inc: increase, 2 stitches in the same stitch: 2 dc in a dc row or round, 2 sc in a strawberry row.
- FPdc: front post double crochet (UK: front post treble). Yarn over, put the hook in from the front, round the post of the stitch below from right to left and out to the front again, and work a dc. It makes the raised ribs.
- shell: 5 dc in the same stitch.
- surface chain: a chain worked on top of finished fabric. Hold the yarn behind the work, put the hook in from the front between two stitches, catch the yarn and pull a loop through the fabric and through the loop on the hook.
- 3 (6, 12): the first number is for 3 months, the ones in brackets for 6 and 12 months. A single number is for every size.

## The video

Khadija Croche's video makes the dress this pattern is adapted from: a cream baby dress with long sleeves, worked from the neck down, with red strawberries sewn on. It is in Arabic. She makes one size, for about 4 to 6 months, in half double crochet with a button band down the front, and her skirt is in shells. Our sizes, counts and stitches are our own and our back laps over instead of buttoning, so use the video to see how a dress like this goes together and follow the counts on this page.

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6w_DD_FWKg

- The sleeves are worked down from the armhole from 27:01, and the cuff from 31:28.


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- The finished dress, with its strawberries and the chain round the waist, at 39:05.

Video: Khadija Croche, "How to make a crochet baby dress decorated with strawberries, elegant, easy and simple" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6w_DD_FWKg), her Arabic title in our translation, 2026, in Arabic, about 41 minutes. Our pattern is adapted from her dress; the sizes, counts and stitches on this page are our own.

## The pattern

The yoke is worked flat in rows from the neck down, which leaves the back open. Rows: ch 2, which does not count as a stitch, then turn. After the yoke the two back edges are lapped and the dress is joined into rounds. Rounds: join with a sl st in the first stitch and do not turn. Start a dc or rib round with ch 2, and a sc or shell round with ch 1; neither counts as a stitch.

### 1. Yoke

Chain loosely, or make the chain on a hook a size bigger: the neck edge has to go over the baby's head.

- Foundation: with A, ch 50 (56, 62) loosely.
- Row 1: dc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across. [48 (54, 60) sts]
- Row 2: dc 3 (6, 9), [dc 1, inc] 21 times, dc 3 (6, 9). [69 (75, 81) sts]
- Row 3: dc in each st. [69 (75, 81) sts]
- Row 4: dc 3 (6, 9), [dc 2, inc] 21 times, dc 3 (6, 9). [90 (96, 102) sts]
- Row 5: dc in each st. [90 (96, 102) sts]
- Row 6: dc 3 (6, 9), [dc 3, inc] 21 times, dc 3 (6, 9). [111 (117, 123) sts]
- Row 7: dc in each st. [111 (117, 123) sts]
- Row 8: dc 3 (6, 9), [dc 4, inc] 21 times, dc 3 (6, 9). [132 (138, 144) sts]
- Rows 9–10: dc in each st. [132 (138, 144) sts]

The yoke is 10 rows deep in every size, about 10 cm. Every second row adds 21 stitches spread evenly, so the yoke lies round over the shoulders.

### 2. Joining the yoke and the bodice

Do not fasten off after Row 10. Ch 2 and turn, so the right side faces you. Lay the edge you are at over the other back edge, so that 4 stitches of each sit on top of each other.

- Rnd 11: dc 4 through both back edges, dc 15 (16, 17), ch 5 (6, 7) for the underarm, skip 30 (31, 32) sts for the sleeve, dc 34 (36, 38), ch 5 (6, 7) for the underarm, skip 30 (31, 32) sts for the sleeve, dc 15 (16, 17). [78 (84, 90) sts]


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- Rnds 12–14: dc in each st. [78 (84, 90) sts]

Work the first 4 dc through both layers. The skipped stitches wait for the sleeves. In Rnd 12, work one dc into each underarm chain. Rnd 14 is the waist: the red chain goes along it at the end.

### 3. Skirt

- Rnd 15: [dc 2, inc] 26 (28, 30) times. [104 (112, 120) sts]
- Rnd 16: [FPdc around next st, dc 7] 13 (14, 15) times. [104 (112, 120) sts]
- Rnd 17: [FPdc around next FPdc, inc, dc to next FPdc] 13 (14, 15) times. [117 (126, 135) sts]
- Rnds 18–19: [FPdc around next FPdc, dc to next FPdc] 13 (14, 15) times. [117 (126, 135) sts]
- Rnds 20–28: repeat Rnds 17–19 3 times. [156 (168, 180) sts]
- Rnds 29–30 (29–32, 29–33): [FPdc around next FPdc, dc to next FPdc] 13 (14, 15) times. [156 (168, 180) sts]

Rnd 15 gathers the skirt: it puts 4 stitches into every 3. Put a marker in the first FPdc of Rnd 16 and move it up as you go. Each FPdc goes round the post of the FPdc below it, so the 13 (14, 15) ribs run straight down the skirt. Every third round each panel gains one stitch, the inc just after its rib, and that is what makes the skirt flare.

### 4. Shell hem

- Rnd 31 (33, 34): [sc in next st, sk 2, 5 dc in next st, sk 2] 26 (28, 30) times. [26 (28, 30) shells]

Join with a sl st in the first sc and fasten off. Each shell sits over 6 stitches, 2 shells to each panel.

### 5. Sleeves

With A and the right side facing, join at the middle of one underarm chain. Work the sleeve in rounds, joined like the skirt.

- Sleeve Rnd 1: dc in each ch and in each sleeve st round the armhole. [35 (37, 39) sts]
- Sleeve Rnds 2–14 (2–15, 2–17): dc in each st. [35 (37, 39) sts]
- Sleeve Rnd 15 (16, 18): [sc 1, sc2tog] 10 (12, 12) times, sc 5 (1, 3). [25 (25, 27) sts]
- Sleeve Rnds 16–18 (17–19, 19–21): sc in each st. [25 (25, 27) sts]

Fasten off and make the second sleeve the same way. The sleeve stays full down to the gather round, which pulls it into the cuff: that is what puffs it. Work the cuff evenly, not tight.


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### 6. Neck edging

- Neck edging: with A and the right side facing, join at the lower end of one back edge, ch 1, 2 sc in the end of each dc row up to the neck, sc in each st along the neck, then down the other back edge in the same way; fasten off. [88 (94, 100) sts]

The edging firms the neck and the two back edges, so the lap lies flat.

### 7. Strawberries, waist chain and bow

Make 8 strawberries. Each one is worked in rows from the tip up, in B with a top row in A. Rows: ch 1, which does not count as a stitch, then turn.

- Row 1: with B, ch 2, 3 sc in 2nd ch from hook. [3 sts]
- Row 2: inc, sc 1, inc. [5 sts]
- Row 3: inc, sc 3, inc. [7 sts]
- Rows 4–5: sc in each st. [7 sts]
- Row 6: sc2tog, sc 3, sc2tog. [5 sts]
- Row 7: with A, sc in each st. [5 sts]

Fasten off, and leave a 20 cm tail of B at the tip for sewing. Each strawberry is about 4 cm across and 3.5 cm tall.

- Waist chain: with B and the right side facing, start at the centre back, hold the yarn behind the dress and work a surface chain round the middle of Rnd 14, one chain between each pair of stitches, then join to the first chain and fasten off. [78 (84, 90) chains]
- Bow: with B, ch 11, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, then 2 more rows of sc. [10 sts]

The bow is optional. Wrap its long tail tightly 6 times round the middle of the strip, so it pinches into a bow, and keep that tail for sewing.

### 8. Making up

Weave in every end of A back and forth through several stitches, then trim it.

Sew 6 strawberries on the front of the skirt, 2 side by side just under the centre front of the waist chain and 4 lower down, 2 on each side, and 1 on each sleeve, on the outside of the upper arm. Pin each one flat first. Sew it down all round its edge with small stitches through the dress, then make a few stitches through its middle, so no edge or tip can be lifted with a finger. Keep the strawberries off the back of the dress, where the baby lies on them.

If you make the bow, sew it flat at the centre front of the waist chain, all round its edge and through the middle. For the four red dots of the picture, embroider 4 small dots of B down the centre front of the yoke, each a few satin stitches over one stitch, or leave them off.


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Turn the dress inside out. Weave in every strand of B left from the sewing, and check inside both sleeves and both cuffs that no strand or loop lies loose.

## Made for a baby

- No buttons, beads or snaps. That is why the back of this dress laps over instead of buttoning, and why the red dots down the front are embroidered.
- Nothing hangs or ties. In the picture two strawberries hang from the bow on cords; here they are sewn flat under it, and the bow is sewn down too.
- Sew the strawberries down well, and check them. Sew each strawberry all round and through its middle, and before each wear give each one a firm tug and sew back anything that has started to lift.
- Check inside the sleeves. A loose thread or hair can wind round a baby's finger or toe and cut off the blood flow, which doctors call a hair tourniquet. A long sleeve ends round the hand, so before each wear turn the dress inside out and check both sleeves and cuffs for long strands.
- Not for sleep. Take the dress off for naps and at night. Long sleeves in DK are warm.

The sources for each point are on our handmade baby gift safety checklist (https://crochetbabygifts.com/handmade-baby-gift-safety-checklist/#safety-sources).

## Yarn and time

The 6 month dress takes about 480 m of A and 25 m of B. The amounts come from counting every stitch and allowing a published length of yarn per stitch for DK, with each FPdc counted as a little more than one double crochet, plus the starting chains, the strawberries, the waist chain, the bow and tails. They are upper estimates, so check the metres on your ball band before you buy.

It is about 5,900 stitches. The skirt takes the longest, and each strawberry is quick: 34 stitches of red and 5 of cream.

## Frequently asked questions

Can I leave the strawberries off? Yes. The dress is complete without them. If you sew on fewer, keep them on the front and the sleeves, and sew each one down all round.

Can I make the sleeves shorter? Yes. Work fewer plain dc rounds before the gather round, and keep the cuff rounds as they are, so the hand still passes.

Can I make it longer? Yes. Work more plain rib rounds before the shell hem. Each one adds about 1 cm. The stitch count does not change, so the hem still has the same number of shells.


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