Time Rabbit Crochet Pattern

As part of our campaign to raise awareness about the challenges posed by long parental absences, The Naval Children's Charity is delighted to invite you to create these Time Rabbits.

These will be sent out, alongside the original work of children's literature "Zoe and the Time Rabbit", to families that have requested them.
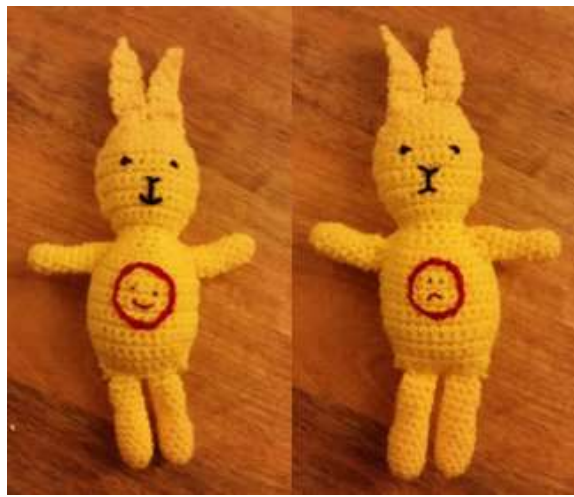
The Time Rabbits come in pairs – one with a happy face on the tummy, and one with a sad face.

Please send any bunnies you knit to the address below, or email: book@navalchildrenscharity.org.uk if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time.

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This crochet pattern is based on a knitting pattern very kindly created by Fiona Goble. For more information on Fiona, you can visit her website www.fionagoble.com

Measurement
15 cm from the tip of the feet to the top of the head (excluding ears)

Equipment
A 3.5 mm crochet hook
A needle to sew your work together
A large-eyed embroidery needle
Water-soluble pen (optional but very useful to mark features and clock face before stitching them)

Materials
20g (¾ oz) Aran weight yarn in bright yellow
10g (⅓ oz) polyester toy stuffing
Very small amounts of red and black 4ply or DK yarn (or you could use embroidery thread)

Skill level
You will need to know the crochet basics – chain stitch, single crochet stitch, increasing and decreasing. Skills that will also help are the "magic circle" to start your rabbit's limbs and invisible decreases although these are not essential. For the ears and the body, to keep the edges smooth, the turning chain isn't counted.

You also need to know how to sew your work together as well as a few embroidery techniques – straight stitch, French knots and chain stitch. The pattern is written using American crochet notation.

A note on yarn
The best yarns to choose for the main rabbit are 100% wool or wool/acrylic mixes - although good quality acrylic yarns will also work well. Budget acrylic yarns are best avoided because they don't have enough stretch. For similar reasons, please avoid cotton, linen and bamboo yarns for this project.

Body and head

(The pieces are crocheted from base of body to top of head, and then down the other side again from the head to the base of the body)

Chain 9

Row 1: sc x8 starting into second stitch from the hook (8) chain 1 and turn
Row 2: sc, inc, sc x4, inc, sc, ch1 and turn (10)
Row 3: sc x10, ch1 and turn (10)
Row 4: sc, inc, sc x6, inc, sc, ch1 and turn (12)
Row 5: sc x12, ch1 and turn (12)
Row 6: sc, inc, sc x8, inc, sc, ch1 and turn (14)
Row 7-15: sc x14, ch1 and turn (14)
Row 16: sc, 2tog x6, sc, ch1 and turn (8)
Row 17: sc x8, ch1 and turn (8)
Row 18: sc, 2tog, sc x2, 2tog, sc, ch1 and turn (6)
Row 19: sc x6, ch1 and turn (6)
Row 20: sc, inc x5, ch1 and turn (11)
Row 21: sc x11, ch1 and turn (11)
Row 22: sc, inc, sc, inc, sc, ch1 and turn (13)
Row 23-29: sc x13, ch1 and turn (13)
Row 30: sc, 2tog x2, sc x3, 2tog x2, sc, ch1 and turn (9)
Row 31: sc, 2tog, sc x3, 2tog, sc, ch1 and turn (7)
Row 32-35: sc x7, ch1 and turn (7)
Row 36: sc, inc, sc x3, inc, sc, ch1 and turn (9)
Row 37: sc, inc x2, sc x3, inc x2, sc, ch1 and turn (13)
Row 38-44: sc x13, ch1 and turn (13)
Row 45: sc, 2tog x2, sc x7, 2tog x2, sc, ch1 and turn (11)
Row 46: sc x11, ch1 and turn (11)
Row 47: 2tog x5, sc, ch1 and turn (6)
Row 48: sc x6, ch1 and turn (6)
Row 49: sc, inc, sc x2, inc, sc, ch1 and turn (8)
Row 50: sc x8, ch1 and turn (8)
Row 51: sc, inc x6, sc, ch1 and turn (14)
Row 52-60: sc x14, ch1 and turn (14)
Row 61: sc, 2tog, sc x8, 2tog, sc, ch1 and turn (12)
Row 62: sc x12, ch1 and turn (12)
Row 63: sc, 2tog, sc x4, 2tog, sc, ch1 and turn (10)
Row 64: sc x10, ch1 and turn (10)
Row 65: sc x10 and fasten off

Legs

(Legs are crocheted from the bottom of the foot to the top of the thigh)
Make x2
Create a magic circle, or chain 3 stitches and join together with a slip stitch.
The leg is worked in a spiral with the first row being worked into the circle.
Row 1: sc x 6 into the circle (6)
Row 2: sc, inc x 4, sc (10)
Row 3-7: sc (10)
Row 8: sc, 2tog, sc x4, 2tog, sc (8)
Row 9-13: sc (8)
Row 14: sc, 2tog, sc x2, 2tog, sc (6)
Row 15: sc (6)
Fasten off.

Arms

(Arms are crocheted from the tip of the hand up to the top of the arm)
Make x2
Create a magic circle, or chain 3 stitches and join together with a slip stitch.
The arm is worked in a spiral with the first row being worked into the circle.
Row 1: sc x7 into the circle (7)
Row 2-9: sc (7)
Row 10: sc, 2tog, sc, 2tog, sc (5)
Fasten off.

Ears

(Ears are crocheted from base to tip)
Make x2
Chain 4
Row 1: sc x3 starting from second chain from hook, chain 1 and turn (3)
Row 2-10: sc x3, ch and turn (3)
Row 11: 3tog.
Fasten off.

To make up

Sew the body pieces together leaving the bottom open for stuffing. Stuff the piece, shaping the head and body as you go. Close lower edge. Sew the arms in place, just to the front of the side seams on the body. Sew the legs in place. Sew the ears in place.

Using black yarn or embroidery thread, embroider two French knots for the eyes and one French knot for the nose. Add the mouth using straight stitch.

Using red yarn or embroidery thread, embroider a circle in chain stitch on the rabbit's tummy for the clock face. If you have a water-soluble pen, you might find it useful to draw round a 2p piece to make a sewing guide for the circle. Add French knots for the eyes and work a flattened 'V' in straight stitch for the smiley mouth – or an upside-down flattened 'V' for the sad mouth.

Weave in all loose ends.

If you are not completely happy with the shape of your rabbit, dunk it thoroughly in lukewarm water. Then cup it in your hands and shake out the excess water, reshape it and leave it to dry thoroughly in a warm place.

Abbreviations

sc	Single crochet stitch (american notation, equivalent to a double crochet stitch in UK notation)
ch	Chain stitch
( )	Number in brackets is the number of stitches in that row. This doesn't include the turning chain
inc	Increase by making two single crochet stitches into the next single crochet
2tog	Decrease by joining two stitches together.
3tog	Decrease by joining three stitches together
x	Denotes the number of times the preceding action is to be carried out. for example, sc x4 means do 4 single crochet stitches, 2tog x2 means join two stitches together twice (4 stitches reduced to 2)