

Beads of Courage Drawstring Bags

Instructions for sewing bead bags and an order form for Beads of Courage labels for children in a Beads of Courage member hospital can be found at <http://www.beadsofcourage.org/pages/quilters.htm>

Drawstring Beads of Courage Bag Instructions

1. Cut two pieces of fabric 9 inches by 12 inches to be used to make the outside of a bag. These two pieces will be called the focus fabric.
2. Sew a Beads of Courage label on the outside of one cut piece, in either the lower right corner or middle of fabric.
3. Lay the right sides of the focus pieces together. (*wrong sides facing out*)
4. Stitch a 1/2-inch seam on both long sides, forming a tube; set aside.
5. Cut two pieces of fabric lining 9 inches by 12 inches.
6. Lay the right sides of the lining pieces together. (*wrong sides facing out*)
7. Stitch a 1/2-inch seam on both long sides, forming a tube.
8. Using an iron, press open the side seams of the focus and lining fabric.
9. Clip corners diagonally at bottom of each sewn piece.
10. Turn lining tube right side out.
11. Place it inside tube of focus fabric. (*The right side of the lining will be facing the right side of the focus fabric.*)
12. Position the two pieces so that the seams of the lining line up exactly with the seams on the focus fabric.
13. Stitch around the top of the tube about ¼ an inch away from the top edge, joining the lining to the focus fabric. (*Using the open arm of a sewing machine works best.*)
14. Pull the lining out of the tube and press the seam towards the lining then tuck the lining back in the tube.

15. Turn the tube right side out, making sure side seams are kept open; press seams flat. (*This seam is the **top** of the bag. The open end is the bottom.*)
16. For making the drawstring channel, sew **2 inches from the top** all the way around the tube. Backstitch the seams. (*To backstitch, sew over a seam, then sew backwards over the same seam, and then sew forward. This extra stitching is necessary to give strength to the opening for the drawstrings.*)
17. Repeat step sixteen at **2-3/4 inch from the top** all the way around the tube.
18. At side seams of the tube, between the 2 inch and 2-3/4 inch row of stitching, use a seam ripper, or scissors with a sharp point, and snip the side seam stitches to make openings for drawstrings.
19. Turn the fabric inside out and press the bottom nice and flat, especially over the two side seams.
20. Stitch across the bottom of the tube. Finish with a zig-zag stitch to prevent fabric from fraying.
21. Turn the fabric right side out.
22. Pin a safety pin through the end of a 26 inch piece of ribbon or cord. Poke the safety pin through one of the drawstring openings, and gently thread it through the channel, leaving a bit out at either end. Remove the safety pin and tie the ends of the ribbon or cord together.
23. Take another 26 inch of ribbon or cord, and repeat step 22, this time starting at the opposite drawstring opening.
24. Tie knots at ends of drawstrings.

Two other good sites to go to for pictures and downloadable instructions:

<http://blissfullyimperfect.blogspot.com/2012/08/bags-for-beads-of-courage.html>

<http://www.bechildcanceraware.org/beads-of-courage/photo-instructions-for-bead-bags/>