FBF dolls dos and don’ts

Some helpful tips for making FBF dolls.

1. Gauge and stuffing: Stuff your dolls as you crochet. Keep adding stuffing even when you think there is enough. The limbs, head and body should all be very firm (crammed full of stuffing) When you start adding stuffing to your dolls make sure there are NO holes with stuffing peeking out or where you can see the stuffing inside the doll.

2. Neck: When sewing the "neck" area, add lots of stuffing to the head and lots of stuffing to the body. When you are about half way done sewing the 2 pieces together add LOTS more stuffing...even when you think there is enough stuffing, add MORE! And then when you get down to the last couple stitches before you close off the connection add more! DO NOT add any other objects other than fiber materials and stuffing to the neck.  We do not allow any items inside the doll that may break, melt or hurt a child...such as plastic bottles, glue sticks, metal, paper, etc.

3. Ears: when making the ears you will form a "bowl" shape. Keep the bowl shape but flatten it so that the ridge of the bow touches meets. The ridge is what is sewn to the side of the head and the center of the "bowl" where you started your stitches sticks out away from the head. Please always add ears to your dolls.

4. Eyes: always match the color of eyes for your doll to the child's eyes. Never use plain black safety eyes. Remember to create the eyes as requested, either safety eyes or stitched on.

5. Mouth: the lips should be a soft color that closely matches the child's lip color. Usually a soft pink or light tan works well. Unless the child wears lots of red lipstick please do not ever use red yarn for the lips.  Make sure the mouth is a simple smile that is 2 strands of yarn (or one folded in half) that goes from one side of the face to the other. We ask that unless the parent has requested teeth, braces or an open mouth that you refrain from adding this as part of the dolls features. If they have asked, please contact your Captain and lets discuss this change in the typical features of our FBF pattern.

6. Noses: the nose should just be a few stitches back and forth. We aren't so much trying to match the size/shape of the nose as much as we are trying to show representation of a cute little nose.

7. Fingers: FBF dolls do not generally have fingers. This part of the doll is left to be simple both for looks and for ease in making dolls. Please do not add fingers to your FBF dolls. If you feel a need to add fingers for a specific request, please receive permission from admin first. Please note, thumbs created as the pattern calls for are approved.

8. Feet: Currently the FBF pattern does not have feet. However, this is something that will be added to the pattern in the near future so we are leaving the option to add feet to your dolls on your own until the pattern is officially updated.

9. Specs: FBF dolls should be approximately 12- 13 inches tall when finished. It is recommended to use a G hook to achieve this size but without a current gauge we realize dolls will end up being different sizes. The pattern will be updated soon to show a gauge to achieve this size of doll. Until then please do your very best to create dolls that are close to this sizing.

10. While you are making your FBF doll please follow the pattern to the best of your abilities and use our checklist system to be sure you are doing everything needed when sending out your FBF dolls:<https://www.facebook.com/groups/feelbetterfriends/1560944597460323/>

11. Cleanliness:  If you become ill during a doll assignment please stop working on your doll.  With many of these kids having impaired immune systems it is important to not to spread germs.  When you feel well again please clean your hooks with rubbing alcohol or suitable astringent. ALWAYS: keep your yarn, stuffing and other doll making supplies in a clean, smoke free workspace away from animals, food, feces and other hazardous materials.  It is recommended you keep materials in plastic bags and you always wash your hands each time before you work on your dolls.