

## ***SPARKY the SNUGGLE CRITTER***

***Finished size: approximately 7" x 11"***

***Designed by: Kim Diehl***



### **Materials:**

- ◆ 2 chubby sixteenths (9" x 10 1/2") of assorted prints for critter front and back body pieces
- ◆ 4 rectangles (5" x 6") of assorted prints for arms and legs
- ◆ 1 square (6" x 6") of print for tummy applique
- ◆ 1 rectangle (4" x 7"), of print for muzzle applique
- ◆ Scraps of assorted prints, including black, for ear, eye, and nose appliques
- ◆ Scraps of black wool for eyes (or you can substitute buttons for a critter that won't be given to an infant)
- ◆ Black perle cotton and embroidery needle for stitched face details and applique accents
- ◆ Fiberfill to stuff critter
- ◆ Standard sewing supplies, including a water-soluble marker
- ◆ Supplies for your favorite applique method (I used the invisible machine applique method outlined in my books that feature applique projects for the critters shown, but needle-turn, fusible, and even raw edge methods will work equally well.)

### **Directions:**

*Patterns for the critter body front and back pieces, arms, and legs, include a 1/4" seam allowance. Applique patterns **do not** include seam allowances.*

1. Use a pencil to trace the critter body pattern onto the right side of the chubby sixteenth of print chosen for the front, including *small* marks along the outer edge to show placement for arms, legs, and the side opening. *Do not* cut the critter out at this time, because adding the appliques and face details will be easier when working with the larger square of cloth.

2. Use the critter photo below and the muzzle piece to position the tummy patch on the body front, overlapping the pieces approximately 1/4". Use your favorite applique method to stitch the tummy patch in place. Next, reposition and applique the muzzle. *(Please note that this photo includes details used for future steps – refer to it as needed when adding these elements to your critter!)*





3. Lay out and stitch the ear, eye, and nose appliques. Add black wool eyes (or buttons, if desired), stitching them securely in place with black perle cotton. For my wool eyes, I used a basic whip stitch, with the inner portion of each stitch landing in the center of the eye as shown below.



4. Use a water-soluble marker to draw the mouth onto the muzzle; stitch the drawn lines with black perle cotton using a simple stem stitch.

5. Use the black perle cotton and a running stitch to add accents to any applique features you wish. (I chose to accent the ear and eye appliques, and also the tummy patch.) Set aside the appliqued and stitched body front piece for later use.

6. Fold each rectangle of assorted print chosen for the arms and legs in half, *right sides together*; press the fold to snug the layers together. Trace, pin, and cut two arms and two legs, with one set from each layered print. Beginning and ending with a few back stitches, sew the layered arm and leg pieces using a 1/4" seam allowance; leave the ends unstitched for turning and stuffing.

7. Add small clips to the seam allowances of the arms and legs at curvy areas, stopping a few threads from the sewn seam. Turn the stitched arms and legs right side out. (I used a capped ink pen to help me with this step.) Use fiberfill to stuff the arms and legs, stopping approximately 1" from the raw open ends.

8. Layer the chubby sixteenth of print chosen for the body back piece underneath the reserved body front piece, *wrong sides together*. Pin the layers along the inside edge of the drawn critter front to prevent shifting; use scissors to cut out the layered front and back pieces. Separate the pinned layers; reserve the body back piece for later use.

9. Referring to the step 2 photo for basic positioning, pin an arm to each side of the critter front, with the bottom of each arm resting on the drawn positioning line and the raw edges flush with the edge of the body. In the same manner, use the leg positioning lines to add and pin the legs, with the feet resting at the center of the body. Machine stitch the arms and legs, approximately 1/8" in from the pinned raw edges. Remove the pins.

10. Layer the reserved body back piece onto the front piece, *right sides together*, ensuring the arms and legs are lying flat with the inner portions resting away from the outer edges that will be stitched; pin well around the entire critter perimeter. Beginning and ending with a few backstitches, use a 1/4" seam allowance to machine stitch the front and back pieces together, *excluding* the side area that will be used for turning the critter right side out.

11. Carefully add a handful of clips to the curvy seam allowance areas as previously instructed, and turn the critter right side out. Stuff the critter with fiberfill. Use a needle and matching thread to stitch and close the side opening.





# "Sparky" Snuggle Critter

- Sewing pieces include  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance
- Applique pieces do not include seam allowance

