Have you ever visited a nursing home at meal time? You can brighten the life of a nursing home resident with a fun, colorful bib to protect their clothing. This service project consists of sewing adult-size bibs for people in care facilities. They should be made of easy-care fabrics that will withstand many spills and washings. Attached is a pattern that takes 2 pieces of fabric, 45” wide. Since the bib is reversible, it’s fun to use 2 different colors or prints. From two 1-yard pieces, you can make 2 bibs. The neck fastens with hook and loop closures. There are also free patterns on the internet.

The bibs can be donated locally in your county. Finding the local care facilities, contacting them about their needs, and personally delivering your donations extends this activity to become service learning.

Contact us with questions! Please send pictures and numbers of bibs donated to Ashley & Brittney, SFR Adult Bib Service Project Chairs at: teacherc2@gmail.com

Note: We took bibs to try out at a care home. Based on their advice, we revised the pattern to make it longer, narrower, with no crumb catcher. Bibs from this new pattern or from our original pattern will all work and be much appreciated. at too!
SFR Adult Bib Directions

Supplies Needed: for two (2) bibs
One (1) yard each of 2 coordinating non-directional fabrics for front and back, 39” apron.
If the fabric has a one-way design, 1 yard of each makes aprons that are 36” long, or 1-1/8 yard makes 39” aprons.
Two (2) strips of 3/4” hook and loop (Velcro-like) tape, 1-1/2” long
Thread, pins, scissors, tape, sewing machine

Pattern:
Print pattern. Tape page 1 to page 2 where indicated. Add additional paper between page 2 and 3 to lengthen pattern to 36” or 39” overall, depending on your fabric length.
Cut out pattern using paper scissors.

Directions:
1. Remove selvedges from each side of fabric.
2. For non-directional fabric, cut each piece of fabric in half crosswise so each piece measures approximately 18 x 44.
3. If the fabric has a one-way design, cut it lengthwise and cut into 2 equal pieces. If the fabric is 36” long each piece will be about 22 x 36. If the fabric is 1-1/8 yard long, each piece will be about 22 x 41.
4. Fold the 4 fabric pieces in half lengthwise (hot dog orientation).
5. Pin the pattern with the center on the fold line and cut out one from each piece of fabric to make 2 sets of front and back.
6. Pin the two coordinating pieces right sides together, having raw edges even.
7. Stitch around the bib in 3/8” seam, leaving 3” open at bottom to turn. Leave the opening big enough to insert your hand.
8. Trim the seam and clip the curved edges. Use care and take your time. This takes longer than sewing the whole bib.
9. Turn right sides out.
10. Press the whole bib.
11. Top stitch close to the edge all around, stitching the opening closed where you turned it.
12. Hold the top ends of the apron as if you are fastening it on someone from the back. On the INSIDE, pin then stitch the fuzzy half of the tape to the RIGHT back opening edge. You can use a straight stitch or zig-zag stitch. On the OUTSIDE stitch the loopy half of the tape to the LEFT back opening edge, so the right end laps over the left end.
13. The finished bib will be about 16” wide and 35-39” long.

You can customize your bib by sewing a ruffle in the shape of a collar to the right side of the front fabric, a tie shape for a man’s bib, or a pocket, before sewing the front to the back. Simplicity pattern # 2687 has some ideas for personalization.