Bulky Gauge Toddler/Child Hood

This is a long hood, designed to be worn in place of a winter hat and scarf. Depending how long you make the bottom ribbing, you can also fold the bottom under before putting over the head to cover the mouth and nose.

This version was made in **worsted weight yarn**, to a gauge of **4 stitches per inch and 6 rows per inch**, and comfortably fits a baby doll, a toddler, and a 4-year old. If you want a tighter or looser knit, you may need to increase or decrease a couple stitches or rows. It's a pretty forgiving pattern, though!

NECK

To begin, cast on for 1x1 rib over 80 stitches (40 left, 40 right.) I would not use mock rib for this, it won't be stretchy enough. Make sure you have the same number of stitches each side of zero. If you want to make this for a larger head size, just add a few stitches each side.

Knit 40-50 rows. (Picture is 40 rows.)

Transfer all stitches to main bed. Reset row counter to 0.

HOOD

Knit 5 rows. On next row, decrease 6 stitches on carriage side. (34 st each side.) Repeat on the next row.

Knit to row 10, then decrease 1 stitch each side using your preferred method.

On every 5 rows, repeat this. (So you are decreasing 1 st each side at row 10, 15, 20, 25, etc.)

Continue this pattern through row 30.

On row 35, increase one stitch each side. Continue increasing 1 st each side every 5 rows, (row 40, 45, 50, etc.) until you get back up to 34 stitches each side, and 60 rows.

Take off onto waste yarn so you have open stitches to graft the top. If you want to bind off, you could also just sew a regular seam on top.

TOP

Using Kitchener stitch, graft the top for a seamless look, or sew the top seam. DO NOT sew up the front neck yet. If you don't like the little pixie point on top, you could sew it into a curve.

FACE RIBBING

This is just like a neck band for a sweater. You can do it a few different ways - knit the band separately and sew on after, attach on the machine, etc. You don't have to do a folded band, you can do one single layer, but having done it both ways, the folded band looks a little nicer and stretches more. I did it the following way:

Reset row counter to 0. Stretch open the hood as much as possible with wrong side facing you. Hang the face hole on the machine all the way from one end to the other (this example was 42 st each side of zero). Knit one row at garment tension. Transfer every other stitch to ribber for 1x1 rib.

For folded band, knit 18 rows. Take off onto waste yarn (or bind off) and remove from machine. Fold to the inside and sew down. You could do fewer rows here if you wanted a narrower band. It will make a slightly larger face hole if you do that.

Sew up the front seam from bottom of neck to around the inside face ribbing, weave in your ends, and you're done!

DOUBLE LAYER HOOD

For even more warmth, you can make this a double layer hood by knitting it like you would knit a double layer mitten. At a lower stitch size than you will use for the outer layer, follow the instructions in reverse:

Cast onto waste yarn over 34 st, dec. every 5 rows down to row 30, inc. every 5 rows until you get to row 54, then increase 6 st. on carriage side, then again on following row. Knit 5 rows. Transfer to 1x1 rib. Knit 40 rows of ribbing, then increase your stitch size to main tension and follow the instructions as above. When you take off onto waste yarn, Kitchener stitch the two top seams separately, then fold the inner layer into the outer layer and hang the two face hole layers together to do the ribbing. (You could also attach the inner layer to the outer at the top seam if you wanted; the layers will be permanently attached around the face anyway.)

I hope these instructions are clear enough! I'm not an expert, and someone may have a better way of doing things, but this was how I've done it and it was easy enough to complete one of these in an evening.

Happy knitting!