



Homemade Handkerchief Dolls

These sweet little dolls are known by many different names: *handkerchief dolls, pew babies, church dolls, angel babies, prayer dolls.* Pioneers made their own dolls and toys. They were easy to make using a handkerchief, a little ribbon, lace and some type of stuffing. Original dolls had no face so child could imagine their mood.



Supplies:

- 1 handkerchief
- 1 rubber band
- 5 Jumbo cotton balls
- 1- small piece of ribbon
- 1-small piece of lace
- Scissors
- Glue to attach the lace

You can make a handkerchief doll using these simple steps:

1. Unfold the handkerchief, so you can see all four corners at once.



2. Create a loose knot in each of the top 2 corners of the handkerchief to form sleeves.



3. Holding both of those knots — one in each hand — **create the head by using your thumbs to create a poofy space** in the handkerchief between the arms.



4. Tuck the cotton balls **into the head area** so it will hold its shape.

5. **Wrap a rubber band several times around the neck** of the doll to hold the cotton within the head.



6. Lightly **tug on the arm knots to bring the edges of her “dress” out** like a sweater would drape open over the stomach area.

7. **Move the arm knots closer to the head** in order to bring the folds of the dress closer to the center of the doll’s body.



8. **Tie a ribbon around the doll’s neck** to hide the rubber band. You can leave the ends of the ribbon long and flowing or cut them short closer to the doll’s neck.

9. If you want to **create the effect of a bonnet on the doll’s head**, then add a small piece of lace around the head. Glue it on.

Optional: Children can also use a marker to draw a face if it bothers them not to have one. Original dolls had no face so a child could imagine their mood.