

PATCHWORK CHILDREN QUILT – STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL

CREATE A BEAUTIFUL TWO-CHILD SILHOUETTE QUILT WITH SCRAPPY FABRICS

FINISHED QUILT – SIZE: 60 cm x 85 cm



1. MATERIALS

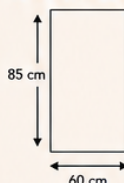
- Cotton Fabrics (assorted colors and prints for clothing)
- Cotton Fabric (brown tones for skin)
- Background Fabric (light/cream)
- Batting
- Backing Fabric
- Thread (matching colors)
- Rotary Cutter and Mat
- Sewing Machine
- Iron and Ironing Board
- Pins, Scissors
- Fabric Glue Pen (optional)

2. FABRIC REQUIREMENTS (Approx.)

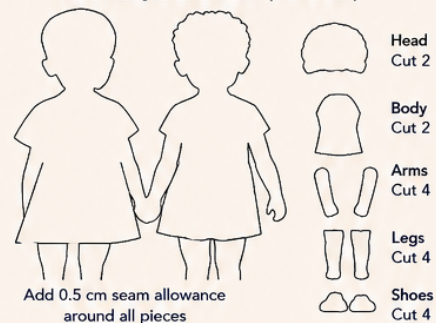
- Background (cream)
65 cm x 90 cm
- Skin (brown tones)
25 cm x 30 cm
- Assorted prints (scrappy for clothes)
30 cm x 50 cm
- Backing fabric
65 cm x 90 cm
- Batting
65 cm x 90 cm

FINISHED SIZE

60 cm (W) x 85 cm (H)



3. APPLIQUÉ PATTERN (Actual Size)



4. CUTTING GUIDE (Add 0.5 cm seam allowance)

• Skin Pieces (Brown Fabric)

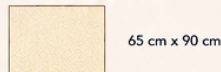


• Clothes (Scrappy Prints)



Cut irregular shapes for a scrap look

• Background (Cream Fabric)



Backing & Batting

65 cm x 90 cm each

5. STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. PREPARE FABRICS



Pre-wash, dry and iron all fabrics. Cut pieces as per the cutting guide.

2. APPLIQUÉ THE SKIN



Pin the skin pieces onto the background. Appliqué using buttonhole stitch or zigzag stitch.

3. ADD THE CLOTHES



Arrange the fabric scraps on the dress areas. Appliqué each piece one by one.

4. ADD SHOES AND DETAILS



Appliqué the shoes and any extra details (like folds or patterns).

5. QUILT THE BACKGROUND



Quilt the background with your favorite design. (Wavy lines work great!)

6. LAYER THE QUILT



Place backing fabric (right side down), batting, and quilt top (right side up). Baste all layers together.

7. QUILT AS DESIRED



Quilt around the appliqué and in the background. Echo quilting enhances the design.

8. BIND THE QUILT



Trim edges. Attach binding strips (6 cm wide), fold, and stitch on the front and back.

6. QUILTING SUGGESTIONS

- Background: Free-motion wavy lines or meandering design.
- Around Appliqué: Echo around the children for dimension.



7. BINDING GUIDE



Cut binding strips 6 cm wide.



Fold in half lengthwise and iron.



Sew to the front of the quilt.



Fold to the back and hand sew or machine stitch.

FINISHED!



LEGEND – MAIN METHODS USED



Appliqué
Attach fabric pieces onto a background using stitch.



Patchwork
Sew fabric pieces together to create scrappy sections.



Quilting
Stitch through all layers for texture and durability.



Binding
Finish the edges for a clean and professional look.

TIPS

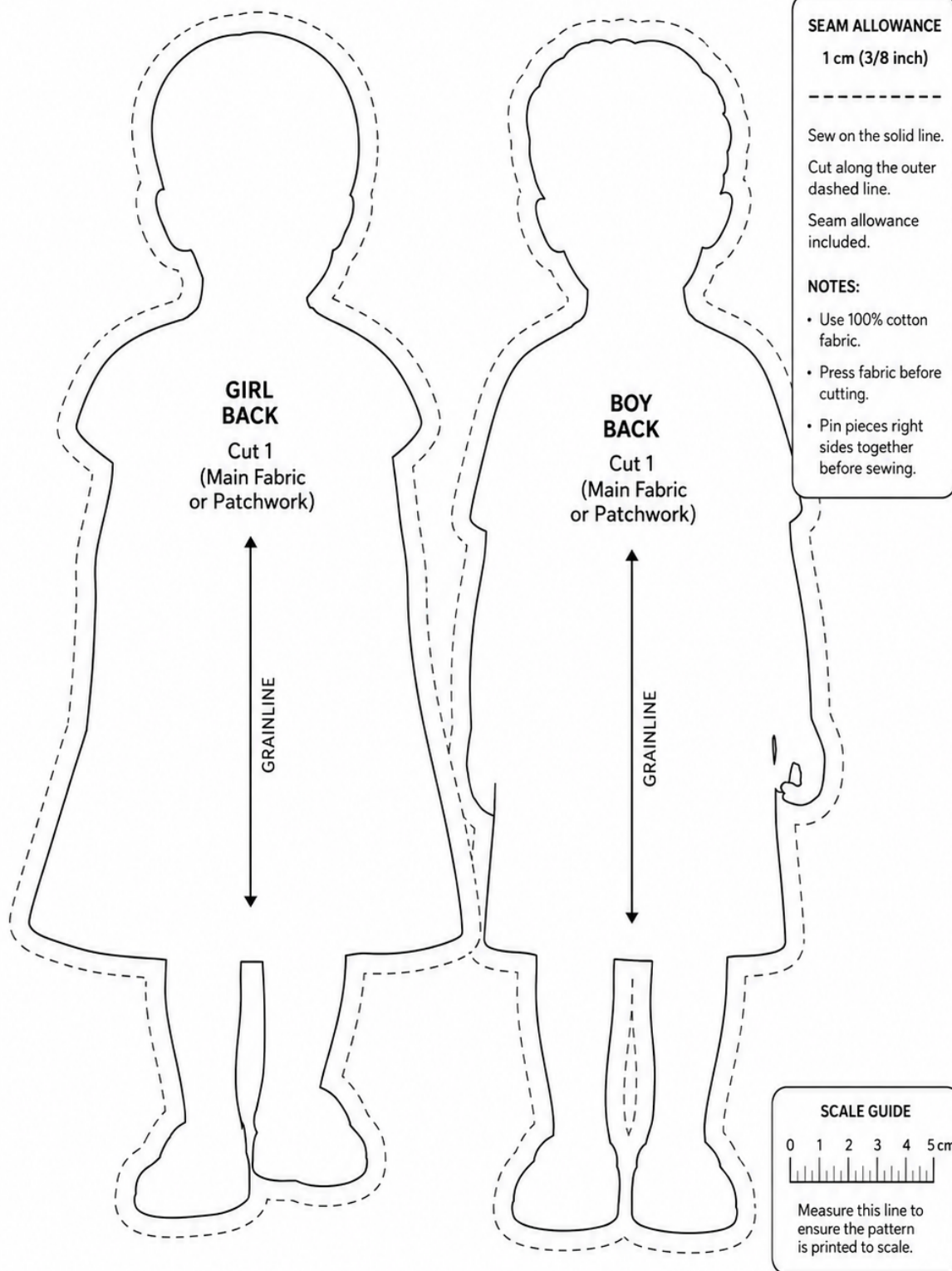
- Use high quality cotton fabrics.
- Press seams as you go.
- Have fun with colors and creativity!

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PATCHWORK CHILDREN – SEWING PATTERN

Includes Seam Allowance



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Patchwork Children Quilt – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

The Patchwork Children Quilt is a charming appliqué and patchwork project featuring two child silhouettes dressed in colorful scrappy fabrics. The finished quilt shown in the tutorial measures approximately 60 cm wide × 85 cm high (about 23.6 × 33.5 inches), making it a beautiful size for a wall hanging, nursery decoration, handmade gift, or decorative quilt panel.

This project combines several classic American quilting and sewing techniques, including appliqué, patchwork, free-motion quilting, layering, basting, and quilt binding. The children are assembled from separate appliqué pieces for the heads, bodies, arms, legs, shoes, and clothing, while the cream background is heavily quilted to create texture and make the colorful figures stand out.

The instructions below follow the construction shown in the graphic closely, while adding enough practical detail for a beginner or intermediate sewist in the United States to complete the quilt from beginning to end.

1. Gather the Materials

Before cutting anything, prepare all the supplies needed for the project.

You will need assorted cotton quilting fabrics in different colors and prints for the children's clothing. Scraps work especially well because they create the lively patchwork appearance seen in the finished quilt.

Choose several brown-tone cotton fabrics for the children's skin. You may use one shade for both figures or slightly different brown shades to create variation.

For the background, use a light cream, ivory, or natural-colored quilting cotton. A neutral background is important because it allows the colorful appliqué pieces to remain the main visual focus.

You will also need quilt batting and backing fabric. A low- or medium-loft cotton or cotton-blend batting works nicely for a wall quilt because it adds dimension without making the project excessively bulky.

Prepare matching or coordinating sewing thread. Neutral thread works well for construction, while brown, cream, or matching colored threads may be used for appliqué.

Useful tools include:

- Cotton quilting fabrics in assorted prints
- Brown-tone cotton fabric for skin pieces
- Light cream cotton fabric for the background
- Quilt batting
- Backing fabric
- Matching sewing thread
- Rotary cutter
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Fabric scissors
- Sewing machine
- Iron
- Ironing board or pressing mat
- Straight pins or appliqué pins
- Safety pins or basting pins
- Fabric glue pen, optional
- Marking pencil or removable fabric marker

- Appliqué foot, optional
- Walking foot or free-motion quilting foot

A fresh sewing-machine needle is also recommended. A Universal 80/12 or quilting needle is suitable for most quilting cottons.

2. Prepare the Fabric Requirements

The graphic provides approximate fabric dimensions rather than exact yardage requirements.

For the cream background, prepare a piece approximately 65 cm × 90 cm. This gives you extra fabric around the intended 60 × 85 cm finished area.

For the children's skin, approximately 25 cm × 30 cm of brown fabric should provide enough material for the appliqué pieces shown.

For the clothing, prepare assorted printed scraps totaling approximately 30 cm × 50 cm. You do not need one continuous piece because the dresses are intentionally made from multiple scraps.

Prepare one backing piece approximately 65 cm × 90 cm.

Prepare one piece of batting approximately 65 cm × 90 cm.

Although the finished quilt is 60 × 85 cm, keeping the backing and batting slightly larger is helpful during quilting because the layers can shift slightly.

3. Pre-Wash, Dry, and Press the Fabrics

Pre-washing is particularly helpful when combining strongly colored fabrics with a light cream background.

Wash the quilting cottons according to the manufacturer's recommendations. This can remove excess dye and allow the fabrics to shrink before they become part of the finished quilt.

Dry the fabrics completely.

Press each fabric carefully with an iron until it lies flat. Wrinkles can distort appliqué shapes and make accurate cutting difficult.

Do not stretch the fabric while pressing. Lift and lower the iron rather than aggressively pushing it across small pieces.

After pressing, place the fabrics on your cutting surface and organize them by purpose: background, skin, clothing, shoes, backing, and binding.

4. Prepare the Appliqué Pattern

The project uses a simplified child silhouette divided into individual appliqué pieces.

For each child you will need approximately:

Head: Cut 2 total

Body: Cut 2 total

Arms: Cut 4 total

Legs: Cut 4 total

Shoes: Cut 4 total

The clothing shapes are created separately from colorful scrap fabrics.

The tutorial specifies adding a 0.5 cm seam allowance around all pieces.

If you are using turned-edge appliqué, trace the finished appliqué shape and then add approximately 0.5 cm outside the traced line.

If you prefer raw-edge appliqué, you can cut directly to the finished outline and secure the fabric with fusible web before stitching. However, to stay closest to the original graphic, use the added seam allowance.

Transfer each pattern section onto paper or template material.

Label every piece clearly:

Child 1 Head

Child 1 Body

Child 1 Left Arm

Child 1 Right Arm

Child 1 Left Leg

Child 1 Right Leg

Repeat for Child 2.

Labeling pieces before cutting prevents confusion once several similar shapes are on the sewing table.

5. Cut the Skin Pieces

Place the templates on your brown fabric.

Pay attention to the grain of the fabric whenever possible. Keeping larger pieces approximately aligned with the fabric grain reduces stretching.

Trace around each template using a removable fabric marker.

Add the required 0.5 cm seam allowance.

Cut two heads, two bodies, four arms, and four legs.

Keep the pieces for each child grouped together.

If the fabric frays easily, handle the narrow arm and leg pieces carefully.

For turned-edge appliqué, clip small curves where necessary. Do not cut through the stitching line.

Finger-press or carefully iron the seam allowance toward the back of each piece.

A small appliqué iron can make this process easier, but a regular iron also works.

6. Create the Scrappy Patchwork Clothing

One of the strongest features of this quilt is the irregular, colorful clothing.

Instead of making each dress from a single fabric, combine several small scraps.

Choose contrasting quilting fabrics such as:

florals, geometric prints, African-inspired prints, abstract designs, stripes, dots, or small-scale novelty prints.

Arrange the fabrics before sewing them together.

Try to distribute light, medium, and dark values throughout each garment.

Sew two scraps together with a small seam allowance.

Press the seam to one side.

Add another scrap.

Continue building a patchwork panel until it is large enough to cover the entire dress or clothing template.

The seams do not need to form perfect squares or rectangles. The graphic shows an intentionally irregular, scrappy patchwork look.

You can cut scraps at gentle angles to create even more movement.

Once the patchwork panel is large enough, press it completely flat.

Place the clothing template over the patchwork panel.

Move the template around until you like the arrangement of colors.

Trace the clothing shape.

Add the required seam allowance when using turned-edge appliqué.

Cut the garment.

Repeat the process for the second child.

Try not to make the two dresses identical. Variation makes the finished quilt more interesting.

7. Prepare the Cream Background

Cut the cream background approximately 65 cm × 90 cm.

Press it thoroughly.

Because the intended finished size is approximately 60 × 85 cm, the extra fabric provides working space around the quilt.

Find the vertical and horizontal center of the background.

You can gently finger-press the fabric in half vertically and horizontally to create temporary reference lines.

Do not make strong permanent creases.

Place the fabric on a large flat surface.

The two children should be positioned near the center, leaving enough cream background around them for the dense quilting shown in the example.

8. Arrange the Children Before Sewing

Do not immediately stitch the first appliqué piece.

Begin by arranging every major piece on the cream background.

Place the two body silhouettes first.

The figures should stand close together, with their arms positioned so they appear to be holding hands.

Place the heads above the bodies.

Add the legs.

Add the shoes.

Then position the colorful clothing.

Stand several feet away from the quilt and examine the overall composition.

Check whether the children appear centered.

Look at the spacing above their heads and beneath their feet.

Make sure neither figure appears noticeably higher than the other unless that effect is intentional.

Once you are satisfied, take a photo with your phone. This gives you a reference in case the pieces move while you sew.

9. Appliqué the Skin Pieces

Begin with the skin-colored pieces because the clothing will overlap some of the body areas.

Position the body pieces on the cream background.

Pin them carefully or use small amounts of fabric glue.

Stitch around the edges using your preferred appliqué method.

A small zigzag stitch works well.

A buttonhole or blanket stitch is another excellent option and creates a traditional appliqué finish.

If your sewing machine allows adjustments, test the stitch width and length on scrap fabric before sewing the actual quilt.

Keep your stitches consistent around the curved edges.

When sewing around a curve, stop with the needle down, lift the presser foot slightly, turn the fabric, lower the foot, and continue.

Repeat this process for the heads.

Then attach the arms and legs.

Remember that some sections may eventually be covered by clothing, so they do not need excessive decorative stitching in hidden areas.

10. Add the Patchwork Clothes

Place each colorful patchwork garment over the corresponding body.

Make sure the clothing overlaps the body naturally.

Pin or temporarily glue the pieces.

Begin sewing around the garment edge.

Work slowly around curved areas.

If the garment contains several patchwork seams, check that all seam allowances remain flat underneath the appliqué.

Stitch every exposed outer edge securely.

You may also stitch selected internal patchwork seams if you want to emphasize the construction.

The colorful clothing should become the main focal point of the quilt.

Repeat with the second child.

Once both garments are attached, step back and inspect the design again.

Make minor adjustments before continuing with smaller details.

11. Add the Shoes and Small Details

Cut four shoe pieces from coordinating fabric.

The tutorial shows darker and colorful shoe fabrics, but you may choose any prints that complement the clothing.

Position the shoes at the bottom of the legs.

Make sure they overlap the leg edges slightly so no cream background shows between the leg and shoe.

Appliqué around each shoe.

At this stage you may also add optional details such as fabric bows, small decorative patches, hair details, or additional printed-fabric accents.

Keep embellishment balanced.

The original design relies primarily on silhouette, patchwork color, and quilting texture rather than facial features.

Leaving the faces without detailed eyes, mouths, or noses also preserves the artistic silhouette style of the project.

12. Quilt the Background

The cream background in the example is heavily quilted with flowing, organic lines.

You can create a similar effect using free-motion quilting.

Attach a free-motion quilting foot.

Lower or cover the feed dogs according to your sewing-machine instructions.

Practice on a small quilt sandwich before working on the finished project.

The graphic recommends free-motion wavy lines or a meandering design.

Start in an open area of the cream background.

Move the quilt gently while stitching flowing curved lines.

Avoid making sharp directional changes.

Think of drawing continuous waves with the sewing-machine needle.

Quilt around the child silhouettes rather than stitching directly through them at first.

The dense background quilting creates contrast and helps the colorful appliqué stand forward visually.

13. Echo Quilt Around the Appliqué

Another quilting method shown in the tutorial is echo quilting.

Echo quilting means stitching around the outside of an appliqué shape while following its contour.

Begin approximately 0.5 to 1 cm away from the silhouette.

Slowly quilt around the shape of the head, shoulders, clothing, legs, and shoes.

You may add a second echo line farther away.

These lines create definition and emphasize the figures.

Try to keep the spacing reasonably consistent, but slight variation is perfectly acceptable in handmade free-motion quilting.

14. Prepare the Quilt Sandwich

After the appliqué work is complete, prepare the three quilt layers.

Lay the backing fabric on a clean surface with the wrong side facing upward.

Smooth it completely.

Place the batting on top.

Smooth away wrinkles.

Place the appliqué quilt top over the batting with the right side facing upward.

The layers should therefore be:

Backing fabric

Batting

Quilt top

Make sure the backing and batting extend slightly beyond the quilt top.

Secure the layers using curved safety pins, straight basting pins, temporary basting spray, or thread basting.

The tutorial recommends basting all layers together before quilting.

Begin in the center and work outward to prevent wrinkles.

15. Quilt Around the Appliqué

Now quilt through all three layers.

You may stitch around the outlines of the children again.

This technique anchors the appliqué firmly into the quilt sandwich and creates dimensional definition.

Follow the edges of the heads.

Continue around the arms.

Quilt around the dresses.

Stitch beside the legs and shoes.

If desired, add subtle quilting inside the garments.

Avoid excessive quilting inside the patchwork clothing if you want the figures to remain slightly raised against the densely quilted background.

16. Complete the Background Quilting

Continue free-motion quilting through all open cream areas.

The graphic shows a dense meandering or wavy texture.

Try to distribute quilting evenly.

If one area is extremely densely quilted while another area remains almost unquilted, the quilt may distort.

Work gradually from one area to the next.

Roll or fold the quilt gently so it fits through the throat space of your sewing machine.

Avoid pulling the quilt while stitching.

Let the needle and movement of your hands guide the fabric.

Check the back occasionally for thread nests, tension problems, or folds.

17. Square and Trim the Quilt

After quilting is complete, lay the quilt flat.

Use a long quilting ruler and rotary cutter to trim the edges.

The target finished dimensions are approximately:

60 cm wide × 85 cm high

or approximately:

23.6 inches × 33.5 inches

Make sure opposite edges are parallel.

Check that all four corners are approximately 90 degrees.

Take your time during this stage because accurate trimming makes binding much easier.

18. Prepare the Binding

The tutorial recommends binding strips approximately 6 cm wide, which is about 2³/₈ inches.

Cut enough strips to go around all four sides of the quilt, plus approximately 20–25 cm extra for joining.

If cutting from standard quilting cotton, you will probably need several strips joined together.

Place two strips right sides together at a 90-degree angle.

Sew diagonally across the overlap.

Trim the excess fabric.

Press the seam open.

Repeat until you have one continuous binding strip.

Fold the entire strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

Press carefully.

You now have double-fold quilt binding.

19. Sew the Binding to the Front

Begin along one side of the quilt rather than directly at a corner.

Leave approximately 15–20 cm of loose binding at the beginning.

Align the raw edges of the folded binding with the raw edge of the quilt.

Sew through the binding and quilt approximately 6 mm from the edge, or use the seam allowance appropriate for your binding width.

Stop before reaching the first corner.

Create a mitered corner by folding the binding upward and then folding it back down along the next side.

Continue stitching.

Repeat at every corner.

When you approach the starting point, join the binding ends neatly and complete the seam.

20. Finish the Binding on the Back

Fold the binding over the raw quilt edge toward the back.

The folded edge should cover the previous stitching line.

Pin or clip it in place.

For a traditional handmade finish, slip-stitch the binding to the backing by hand.

Take small stitches through the backing fabric without sewing completely through the quilt front.

Continue around all four sides.

Carefully form neat mitered corners.

You may also machine-stitch the binding if you prefer a faster and more durable finish.

21. Final Pressing and Inspection

Place the finished quilt on a clean surface.

Inspect every appliqué edge.

Trim loose threads.

Check the binding.

Make sure no pins remain inside the quilt.

Lightly press the quilt if necessary, but avoid flattening the quilted texture with excessive heat or pressure.

If you plan to hang the quilt, you can sew a hanging sleeve onto the upper back edge.

A simple fabric sleeve allows a dowel or quilt-hanging rod to support the project without damaging the front.

22. Main Sewing and Quilting Methods Used

Appliqué is the technique of attaching smaller fabric shapes to a larger background fabric. In this project, the heads, bodies, arms, legs, shoes, and clothing are all appliquéd onto the cream background.

Patchwork refers to sewing several smaller fabric pieces together to create a larger piece. Here, colorful fabric scraps are combined before the clothing shapes are cut.

Quilting means stitching through the quilt top, batting, and backing. It holds the layers together while also adding texture and decorative detail.

Free-motion quilting allows the sewist to move the quilt freely under the needle while creating curved or meandering stitching designs.

Echo quilting follows the outline of an appliqué shape with parallel quilting lines. It helps visually separate the children from the background.

Binding finishes and protects the raw outer edges of the quilt. The folded binding strips create a clean, professional-looking border.

23. Helpful Tips for Better Results ✨

Use good-quality quilting cotton because it cuts, presses, stitches, and appliques more predictably than many lightweight craft fabrics.

Press each seam as you work rather than waiting until the end.

Use a shorter stitch length when sewing small curved appliqué pieces.

Test appliqué stitches and quilting tension on scraps first.

Keep the background neutral so the colorful patchwork garments remain visually dominant.

When choosing clothing scraps, vary both print scale and color value.

Avoid placing several very similar colors together unless you intentionally want them to blend.

Use quilting gloves during free-motion quilting if you have difficulty moving the quilt sandwich smoothly.

Change your sewing-machine needle whenever it becomes dull.

Most importantly, allow the project to look handmade. Small differences in patchwork placement, quilting curves, and appliqué shapes give the quilt character.

24. Finished Patchwork Children Quilt ❤️

Your completed Patchwork Children Quilt should measure approximately 60 × 85 cm and feature two colorful child silhouettes surrounded by richly textured cream quilting.

The combination of irregular fabric scraps, warm skin-tone appliqué, expressive silhouettes, dense quilting, and traditional binding creates a quilt that feels both artistic and deeply handmade.

You can follow the original color placement closely or create a completely different version using fabrics from your own scrap collection. Because each dress is assembled from many small fabric pieces, this is also an excellent project for using treasured leftovers from previous sewing projects.

Once you understand the construction method, the same technique can be adapted to create families, siblings, friends, different clothing styles, or larger appliqué wall quilts.

A useful next step would be to turn the silhouettes from the graphic into a clean printable pattern with English labels and a 0.5 cm seam allowance, ready to print and use while making the quilt.

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