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## Kids Sewing: Infinity Scarf with Annabel Wrigley

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### Chapter 1 - Introduction

#### Overview

(bright music) - I've been teaching kids to sew for a really long time now, and one of my favorite things about teaching is watching kids go from absolute beginners to pretty awesome, confident sewers. So today we're gonna talk about a really great project. It's perfect for beginners. It's this adorable infinity scarf that Ava's wearing. It's super easy to make. There's no curves, it's all straight sewing. It's perfect. Before we start, we're gonna take care of a little bit of practice. We're gonna work on sewing straight lines and just get super confident before we let loose on our sewing machine. (bright music)

### Chapter 2 - Materials

#### Materials

- Let's talk about supplies to make our very cool and fashionable infinity scarf. First, we're gonna start with a piece of muslin, or another pale kind of fabric. That's what we're gonna use to draw our lines to do our practice sewing. We'll need some pins. We're gonna need our erasable pen. I'm using a Pilot FriXion pen that comes off with the iron, and you can find those online or in a craft store. I'm gonna use two yards of trim, and I like that to be about half an inch wide. I'm gonna be using a yard of fun fabric. I found some at a thrift shop. It's a great way to recycle, but you can just go to your local fabric shop. Probably a cotton would be best. I have a pair of sharp scissors. I have some Heat n Bond hem tape. Mine is three eighths of an inch wide. It's an adhesive tape that kind of gets sticky on both sides. I'm gonna show you how it works later. We're gonna need a ruler. I use a quilters ruler, but you can use any kind of ruler. We're gonna need an iron, and finally we're gonna need a sewing machine.

### Chapter 3 - Practice Sewing and Start Scarf

#### Set up for practice sewing

- Whenever I get a new student in the studio I like to start them off by familiarizing them with the sewing machines. We use all the same sewing machines in class, they're very simple and you really don't need to overcomplicate the details of the machine, we're just gonna learn the basics. We're gonna learn what all the parts are. We're gonna learn about stitches and stitch length. We're gonna learn the names of everything. Sometimes we name them kind of different things. We're gonna talk about why we name our sewing machines, and then we're gonna learn how to thread it. I always love to start off the kids with their sewing with a bright colored thread. I think it's great so that you can see the beginner work that you're doing when you start doing your practice lines. And we need to kind of get pretty good at threading the machine. You'll see that some machines have numbers on them. In this case our machine has arrows. And we're gonna follow those arrows and they're gonna tell us how to thread our machine. In most modern machines you thread from the right to the left, always. So I'm gonna have Ruby follow the arrows and we're going to thread this machine. So we're following that, you'll see this one curves around. Around the little silver guy, and then we're gonna thread it through that hole. Remember if your thread is a little bit frayed you might just wanna clip the end. And that looks great. I've gone ahead and threaded the bobbin. I think it's kinda tricky for new sewers to grasp the concept of the bobbin so go ahead and help them out to start

with. They are gonna get the hang of it really fast. And now I've finished the bobbin, we're gonna move over to our fabric and start getting it ready for our practice lines. So I have cut a small piece of muslin or canvas or some other pale fabric. I'm gonna start by ruling my lines. I grab my ruler and my pen, and I'm just gonna draw some straight lines. I like to have a fair few on the fabric. I think it takes that long to really get to a confident point where you're sewing straight on the line. I usually find in class with my beginners that after they've sewn maybe, maybe eight lines, they're doing really well. So let's do one, two, three, four, five, six, let's do eight and then let's finish off with a fun one. So a little bit of a challenge at the end. And for this one, I'm just gonna free draw a bit of a zig zag. That way we can learn about turning our fabric in the machine. So this is pretty much what we start with. We're gonna teach them to start from the beginning, keep the stitching on the line all the way to the end. We'll talk about backstitching, and the great thing is we'll be able to see their stitches because we're using that bright-colored thread.

### Practice sewing

- We're gonna put our fabric under the foot now to get ready to sew. So we're gonna put it under the foot there. We're gonna make sure that our drawn line is lined up with that middle red line. Gonna lower the foot which is right here. And we're gonna start sewing. So we're gonna give it a go. (motor whirring) So we're gonna slow right down, it's always good to start slowly. Slow down a little bit, good job. (motor whirring) That is really good, that's really straight, great job. (motor whirring) And when we get to the end, we're gonna stop right at the very end, couple more stitches, stop. We're gonna put our needle down. Perfect and we're gonna hold down our back button. Just to get used to sewing backwards. So hold onto your fabric and just do a couple of stitches backwards. Good job, and stop. Perfect, so lift the presser foot. Great, and then we're gonna pull our fabric away from the machine. I think it's great if you can pull a good amount, maybe about this much, and I like it if you cut your threads close to the fabric. We always like to leave a long tail in class. Because you're less likely to get unthreaded when you begin a project. I think that's really great. So we're ready to start on our second row, and Eva's put it under the foot here, we wanna put the foot down. And we're gonna turn our hand wheel on the side so that we have our needle down to start. Let's turn that, perfect. So let's get started, remembering just a really gentle pressure on that foot pedal, 'cause we wanna go slow. (motor whirring) Good job. I know it's really tempting to put your foot down really hard and sew really really fast, 'cause it sounds fun. But I promise you it's much more worth it to go slow. You'll have a better line, it'll be straight, and you won't have a sewing crash. (motor whirring) Great job. (motor whirring) Remember when we get to the end, we're not gonna sew off the fabric, we're just gonna stop when we get to the end. And we're gonna make sure our needle is down again. We may need to turn the hand wheel for that. OK slow down, and stop, maybe one more stitch, let's do one more. Good, perfect, see the needle's already down, so now you can hold down the back stitch, and just do a couple. (motor whirring) Perfect. And the reason that we back stitch is that we wanna secure that thread. So when we're working on projects and we're sewing a seam or sewing a line, if we don't backstitch, sometimes it can come undone. And that's really disappointing when you're working on something that you really like, to have it fall apart. So it's good to get into the habit of backstitching whenever you sew a line. You did a great job. It looks awesome, so let's lift the foot, and let's pull it out, and remember we're gonna leave that nice long tail OK. It's really great. Here's the scissors. And remember we wanna cut that nice and close to the fabric. Oops here we go, pesky scissors, there we go. So you did a wonderful job. The great thing about this is that you can just practice all day long until you feel super confident. I'm gonna go

ahead now and have you try to sew the zigzag. This is a great one to do because it teaches us how to turn a corner. So I think Ruby's gonna take care of this one. Gonna put it under there. And we're gonna sew really slowly until we get to that corner point just there. (motor whirring) Trying to stay on the line. We're gonna stop at that point, perfect. The great thing here is that your machine stopped with the needle down so all you need to do is lift the foot, good job, and you're gonna turn your fabric. Excellent, sometimes you have this bulky bit of fabric stuck under here, what I usually do is I just roll it, just to keep it out of the way. So you're ready to do your next line. (motor whirring) Getting close. Yep and you can turn your hand wheel to get that needle down into the corner and lift your foot again and we're gonna turn it again. You're doing a great job. (motor whirring) You never wanna push or pull the fabric through the machine. You just wanna guide it. Great and we're gonna lift that foot and turn again. (motor whirring) You know a lot of kids that come to this studio are really quite fearful of sewing their fingers together and I'm here to tell you it's very unlikely that it's gonna happen. But I am gonna show you the correct hand position with the sewing machine so that you don't get your fingers in the way of that foot. So we're just gonna keep our hands on either side. We don't wanna put our hand right in front of the foot. And so you can start sewing. And just really gently guide it through and keep your hands in position, perfect. And just move them lightly as you go along, keeping them out of the way of the foot. (motor whirring) You're doing a great job. See how the fabric just moves through, it just gently moves through. Eva's not pushing it through, she's just guiding it. (motor whirring) Hey you're pretty good at this, good job. So if your child gets really frustrated sewing these lines and they're having trouble staying really straight I'd just say practice, just keep on practicing and they will get it. You're probably wondering what the perfect age is for teaching sewing machine skills too. I tend to find seven or eight is the perfect age. Seven, you may need to help a little bit, eight, they're gonna pick it up a lot faster. By nine, they're gonna be an absolute pro. So just keep plugging away and helping them where they need to and they're gonna be doing great before you know it.

#### Prepare fabric for scarf

- We've gathered all our supplies, so now we're going to start preparing our fabric. I've cut one yard of this nice light cotton quilting fabric. If you're not sure if you can cut really nice and straight and get the right measurement, please ask for help. I'm sure mom and dad would be happy to help you. We're going to cut off the selvage. The selvage is this white strip that runs down the length of the fabric. It usually has the name of the fabric company on it. Let's cut off that white strip, just so we have a really nice straight edge. So I'm going to turn my fabric around so that I can get a nice straight cut, and I'm going to carefully cut that off. I usually eyeball where the little sort of pin dots are that are down beside the selvage and kind of use that as my line. Great, so we can set that aside. We don't need that. When you open out your fabric wide, you'll see that there's quite a sharp crease down the center of the fabric. We're going to use that as our cutting line. It makes it super easy for us. If the crease isn't sharp enough for you to really follow, you can fold your fabric in half and iron it again, but it should be there, so we're going to use that as our guide. We're going to cut really carefully down this fold. Make sure that you go slowly, and of course make sure that you have really sharp scissors. You're going to find that you end up with two identical pieces of fabric. We're going to now join these with pins and start sewing so that we can get started on our really fun infinity scarf.

#### Sew short ends together

- We've gone ahead and we've cut out two pieces of fabric. So now we're gonna get them ready for pinning and sewing together. So we have our two pieces and I want you to lay them right sides together. The right side is the side of the fabric with the pattern and the wrong side is the side of the fabric that's the underside of the fabric. So we've lined them up on top of each other so that they match up perfectly and we're going to be pinning across the short end. How about you pin one end and I'll do the other, Ava? So let's grab a few pins and we're just gonna start pinning all the way along. It's really important to use pins when you're sewing two pieces of fabric together because you really don't want them to shift when you're sewing. Want to put a couple of more in there? You want everything to stay nice and together. Great job. So we're all pinned and we're ready to take it to the sewing machine and start sewing. We're gonna start with a backstitch for this part of the project, cause we want to make sure that everything's super-tight. So let's go ahead and start that. Just do a couple of stitches. Perfect, and then go backwards a little bit. Excellent. And now you can keep going and as you go along I want you to take out your pins as you go. Don't run over your pins, just take them out before you get to them. Perfect. (machine humming) Great job. So let's take that, here's a pair of scissors. There you go. Great job. So now we just want to finish up with Ruby's. And don't you forget to backstitch at the end. (machine humming) Great. So that's the first part of our infinity scarf done.

#### Add trim

- You see that we've already sewn this seam here, and that's the two short ends together. And now we're going to open it out, and we're going to give it a really good iron. And I'll open it out like this. We're going to grab our hot iron. We're just going to give that a good iron. We're using cotton for this project, so you can put your iron on the cotton setting. And if you're worried about using the iron, or Mom or Dad don't want you to use the iron, you can just ask for help here. So we have that nice and flat, and it's looking really good. So the next thing we want to do is we're going to fold the entire length of our fabric. 'Cause you'll see we have one long piece of fabric now. We're going to fold it in half, lengthwise. Let's make sure that our edges are lined up really well. When you feel confident that those edges look really good, we're going to grab the iron and we're going to give that a nice iron. And the reason I'm ironing it here, is that I want this fold to be in place, and it's going to help keep the halves together, for our next step. So let's just move along. Make sure that it's lined up. And give it a good iron. It's pretty long, but the great thing about it, an infinity scarf, is that you can wrap it around your neck a couple of times. I think it looks really cool. So that's why we want it to be ... We're just at the end of our ironing. And it's looking good, it's really even, and we're ready to start on the next step, which is putting on the trim. So we're going to go back up to the beginning, where we started. We're going to just open up the edge, like this. I'm using this really fun neon trim that I found at a thrift store. If you're ever thrift shopping, and you find really cool trim, make sure you grab it. There's so much great fabric and trim to be found. Our next step is to apply the hem tape to the edge of our fabric. We're going to lay it along the raw edge right here. The reason that we use hem tape instead of pins, is it's a really great thing for attaching the hem to the fabric without having to use pins. It's adhesive on both sides when you hit it with the iron. It's going to make it a lot easier for you to attach this, and to finish this project, without having to over pin your project. So we're going to lay this on the top. Make sure that everything is lined up really well. And we're just going to go little bit by little bit. And I have the iron. And I'm just going to run over that. And you'll see that that has joined the trim onto the fabric. And when we sew it, it's going to leave us with this really pretty little edge poking through the finished scarf. So we're going to go

ahead and do the same thing, attaching the hem tape and the trim, and we're just going to go slowly all the way down the scarf. You can break it with your fingers, if the roll is getting a little bit annoying. Just make sure it's always flat, and just go a little bit at a time. You can use any kind of trim for this project. Just make sure that the trim is wider than your hem tape. Because we still want a little bit to peek through. And you'll see that later. You'll see the little bit poking through. So I need to apply a little bit more. Get that nice and close to the raw edge. This part can be a little bit fiddly, so it could be a good idea to ask Mom for help. Maybe she could help you with the ironing. You could hold it in place, and she could iron it, or the other way around, if you're feeling confident with the iron. It just can get, just a tiny little bit fiddly. But we're getting it done. Just take your time with it, because you want it to be really straight. And we're just getting close to the end. Always make sure that you untangle your trim. And we're just going to do our final little bit. And then we'll be ready to move on to the next fun step, which is pinning and sewing. You won't believe how quick and easy this project is. Just cut off any extra that you have there. And now we're going to refold our long strip. And it's already been ironed, so it should just fold in really well. And we're going to pin it together. So, we already started pinning, and Ava's just going to finish off. We are making sure that our edges are lined up, and they should already be lined up, because we ironed it in half. So you could go on and finish pinning it. And once we've finished this step, we're going to go on to sew it.

#### Sew into tube

- When we get ready to sew this long edge, we're just going to do it the same way we did it before, which is to put it under the foot of the machine and I want you to line up the edge of the foot on the edge of the fabric, and we're going to get started. Don't forget we need a backstitch at the beginning and a backstitch at the end. Okay, so go ahead and get started. Great job. Take out the pins as you go. There's a pin cushion right here. So don't forget to backstitch at the end, great job. And you're almost there. Backstitch. Excellent job. We've finished sewing our long strip and now it's time to pull it right way out, so you're just going to reach your hand in there, right to the very end, and pull it all the way through. So you'll see this really sweet trim just poking out the sides. I love that we just get the tips of the trim. That's the whole idea, that's what you want. Now we're going to fold the tube that we've created back on itself, which sounds totally nuts, but I promise you when it's all finished, you'll think it's an awesome trick. So what I'm going to do is just pull half of it inside out again, and I want to line up those two open ends of our tube, and you'll see one end and the other end. I'm going to find the seams, and this is one of the seams and this is the other one, and I have the right sides together, and I'm going to push the trim to the same side just like that, and I'm going to put my first pin in. And then what I'm going to do is I'm just going to continue to pin around this circle. Pin here. I'm just continuing to go around the circle, and because we cut our fabric so that both of the pieces of fabric were exactly the same, it should fit perfectly. Coming all the way around just like this. And it fits really well. What we need to do next is mark our no sewing area. In our classes we call it the no sew zone. We come up with other words for that too, like no stinky zombies, sometimes. So we're going to mark that spot and that's going to be our spot that we don't sew. If you need to make it big so that you realize that, make it big. You're going to mark about four inches across. If you need to do a big cross, go ahead and do that if that makes it easier for you. Sometimes I write do not sew across there. Great thing is that this comes off as soon as we iron it. So we're going to be starting to stitch here and we're going to be finishing here, remembering to start with a backstitch and end with a backstitch, and then this is going to be the hole that we pull our infinity scarf through. Before we start sewing, there's a really important thing



we need to do, and that is to pull off our little sort of extension table that's on our sewing machine, and most sewing machines do have this, so for us we're just going to pull it off and set it to the side, and the reason that we're doing that is that we're actually sewing in kind of a circle and we want the fabric to be able to move around this part of the machine, so we're going to slide it onto the machine, making sure that the underneath of that circle is underneath here, like that. We're going to line it up with the edge of the foot on the edge of the fabric. Actually I think we'll start at that no sew zone where we were talking about, right here. And then Ava's going to start sewing, remembering to backstitch at the beginning and then stop at the other side of the no sew zone. Okay, so why don't you go ahead and do that? Start with a backstitch and end with a backstitch. You'll see the start of the no sew zone here, so we're going to go right up to that and then do a little backstitch to finish. That's good. Perfect. You're probably wondering why we left that hole right here and I'm going to show you right now. We're going to put our hand in there, go ahead, and we're going to pull the whole infinity scarf out through that hole. The great thing is is that we have backstitched it, beginning and end, so nothing's going to come undone while we do that. Did we get all our pins out? Make sure we get all our pins out as well. Oops. Do you want me to help you? - [Girl] Yeah. - Okay, look how good this is looking. It's kind of like magic really. And snap, how did that happen? Look at that. We have our infinity scarf right here, but we have one more thing we need to do, one more just to get it finished. We have this hole that we left opened. This was our no sew zone, so now all we're going to do is fold it together, put in a couple of pins, just to hold it in place, just like this. Maybe one more just there. And then we're going to put it under our machine and we're going to sew really close to that edge, and we're done.

## **Chapter 4 - Finish Scarf**

### Close opening

- So you can sew nice and close to the edge, and don't forget to back stitch at the beginning and the end. Let's just get that out of the way. There you go. Yay, you did it. And it looks fantastic. How are you going over there? Did you get it? Great, so you two can take yours out. Got some scissors here for you. Here you go. You have pins all hanging on. Excellent, and just make sure that you trim your threads as well. We have a few strays here. We want to make sure that it's really neat. And you're done. So you can give it a quick iron, and it's ready to wear. The great thing about this is it's perfect beginner project. There's no curves to sew around. There's not really any corners. It's ready-to-wear, and you can make them for everybody. So let's put it on and try it. What do you think? - I like it. - Yeah? You finished yours? Let's see yours on you. I love it, perfect. That is a way to really dress up any outfit, I think. What do you think?