Memory Envelope Instructions

Memory envelopes are keepsake envelopes given to the grieving family after the loss of their baby. The hospital will place items in the envelope such as the birth certificate, photographs of the baby, a lock of hair, footprints, etc.

The construction and fabric should be of the highest quality, as it will be a long treasured keepsake to remind the parents of the baby they lost.

Suggested colors: white, ivory, or pastel with a pastel or pastel baby print lining
Suggested fabrics: weaver’s cloth, linen-look, satin, and fine cottons
Suggested embellishments: lace, applique, embroidery, buttons that are not overly “happy” themes
Suggested fasteners: sewn on snap, button or wrap-around ribbon

Instructions:
Final size large is large enough to hold an 8.5” x 11” sheet of paper without folding.

1. Cut the following to 14” x 24”
   - a piece of fashion fabric
   - a piece of lining fabric (can be the same or different than the fashion fabric)
   - a lightweight interfacing or cotton batting – either fuse or sewn in

2. Sew or iron the interfacing to the wrong side of the lining. If sewn, use ⅜” seam around the entire lining.

3. Right sides together, pin the lining and interfacing to the fashion fabric all around. Sew together almost all the way around, leaving a 4” opening to turn right side out. Clip the corners to eliminate some of the bulk so the envelope will lay flatter.

4. Turn the whole thing right side out. Press, squaring corners and folding under the raw edges of opening.

5. Top stitch ¼" from the edge along one short end. Fold this end up 9”, with lining inside and fashion fabric outside, to create the pocket of the envelope. Pin in place. Stitch ¼" from the edge, starting at fold, going up the envelope side, across top (which will be envelope flap) and down to bottom fold.

6. If desired, add embellishments to the outside of the envelope flap

7. Add fastener to the flap and the envelope pocket.
   - Cut a one yard piece of ¼" or wider ribbon and attach (by hand or machine) to the outside of the flap, centering it close (1” - 1 ½”) to the short edge. Position ribbon by tying a bow and pinning onto flap; one end should be much longer than the other when attached. Fray-check the ends of the ribbon.

[Links to related resources]