KNITTED Preemie Hat

Approximately 10 (12) inches [25 (30) cm] (hat stretches)

Note: Pattern is written for smallest size with changes for larger sizes in parentheses. When only one number is given, it applies to all sizes. To follow pattern more easily, circle all numbers pertaining to your size before beginning.

HAT
Rows 1-12  *K2, p2. Repeat from * to end of row

GAUGE:
17 sts + 25 rows = 4 in [10 cm] in Stockinette st (k on RS, p on WS) BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR GAUGE.

HAT
With A, cast on 48 (56) stitches
Rows 1-11  *K2, p2. Repeat from * to end of row
Row 12  K2, p2tog across - 36 (42) sts
Rows 13-20 Work in St st, beg with a RS row.
Red 'hearts' stripe
Row 21  Change to B, knit
Row 22  *P1 B, p1 A. Repeat from * to end of row.
Row 23  Change to B, knit
Row 24-29 (33) Change to A, work in St st.
Row 30 (34)  *P4, p2tog. Repeat from * to end of row - 30 (35) sts
Row 31 (35) and all RS rows  Knit
Row 32 (36)  *P3, p2tog. Repeat from * to end of row - 24 (28) sts
Row 34 (38)  *P2, p2tog. Repeat from * to end of row - 18 (21) sts
Row 36 (40)  *P1, p2tog. Repeat from * to end of row - 12 (14) sts
Row 38 (42)  P2tog across - 6 (7) sts
Row 40 (44)  P0 (1), p2tog across -3 (4) sts Cut yarn, leaving a 16 inch [40 cm] tail. Thread tail through remaining sts, and sew the sides of the hat together. Fasten off securely. Weave in ends.

POM-POM
Cut a strip of cardboard the size you want your pompom to be. With one strand each A and B, wrap yarn around cardboard – the more wraps, the fuller the pompom will be. Cut yarn leading to skein. Slide a doubled strand of yarn under center of wraps and knot. Clip loops; remove cardboard. Fluff pompom and trim ends evenly. Use the ends of the knotted strand to attach pompom to top of hat.