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Don't Dress Your Child in Blue...

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Don't Dress Your Child in Blue . . .

By Mrs. Lulu Brandt

Instructor, Textiles and Clothing

Green Is More Becoming

THE present tendency toward comparatively small families eliminates to a great extent the possibility of passing clothes on from one member of the family to another. Even in a large family it is not always a desirable thing to do, since a garment selected for one child is not necessarily becoming to another. Far better, then, to plan for each child to wear out his own clothes in so far as possible.

In the first place, plan year-round clothes for your little children, so that they need not be laid aside during certain seasons to be out-grown. In the second place, cut the garments plenty large to begin with, and plan for simple alterations to make it possible to increase length in accordance with growth.

It is very easy to put deep or double hems in little girls' dresses. Temporary, inverted tucks stitched with a long stitch on the sewing machine above the crotch in shorts or bloomers, provide ample opportunity for growth. If the shorts are cut in one with a waist top or attached to a sun suit top, a tuck in the waist might be concealed by the waist band, or an extension tab at the shoulder might provide the opportunity to drop the entire garment down from the shoulder. This extra length at the shoulder may be made to add interest to the design of the garment as well.

It is less easy to plan alterations for boys' suits. Even when the overblouse type of suit is selected, it is hard to place a tuck in the shorts high enough to be out of sight under the overblouse and not interfere with the plaquets. Such a tuck might possibly be placed under the waist band itself, but a very simple plaquet would have to be used; or the tuck would undoubtedly produce too much bulk for successful fastening. If the shorts are cut in one with a sun-suit top or attached to such a top, the same arrangement for lengthening the upper part might be made as we have already indicated for girls' clothes.

The boy's suit which consists of shorts and tuck-in blouse is even harder to change than the overblouse suit. About

the only opportunity for increasing length between neck and crotch, and that is the place where added length seems to be needed first, is to cut the blouse extra long so that the buttons may be lowered. Unless some length can be added to the shorts, though, the suit may be thrown entirely out of proportion. If a tuck in the shorts could be concealed at the waist band, then, that extra length would help materially in keeping the design of the suit satisfactory, as well as adding more length where it is most needed. If such a tuck under the waist band does not work out right, it would help the proportion of the garment some to lengthen the legs of the shorts. Some boys, four or five years old, begin to develop such long, thin legs, that longer shorts look better on them anyway. Double hems are harder to put in shorts than in little girls' dresses, but it is possible to put them in to provide the extra length in the leg.

It is still more difficult to provide extra room for growth in outer wraps, especially the one-piece zipper suit, so desirable for out-door play in cold weather. In a garment of such heavy material a

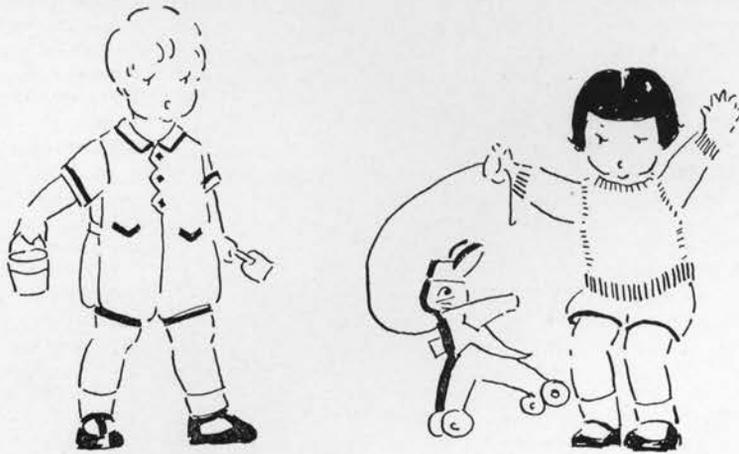
duces neither discomfort nor bulky appearance. Sleeves and legs in such a suit might have the material hemmed back some before joining to the knitted bands so that the hems could be let out for greater length.

All these alterations are for greater length. Most children grow so much more rapidly up and down than around that an easy, roomy cut in the first place gives them ample opportunity for increased girth. Besides, as the little bodies grow broader, the stomach and abdomen recede somewhat, and the waistline remains about the same.

OUR children usually grow so rapidly that unless we can pass the out-grown garments on to younger children, it is much more economical to plan clothes that can be readily adapted to all-year-round wear. If we have winter suits and dresses to be laid aside during the summer, and summer ones to be laid aside during the winter, they are sure to be too small when the right season comes around again.

It is true we can sometimes alter the out-grown garments to make them usable a little longer, but if we can save the time it takes to make such alterations, we are just that far ahead.

A little girl's outfit which is especially well adapted to all-year-round wear consists first of a sleeveless dress cut low enough in the neck to slip over the head readily, but not so low as to slip off the shoulders uncomfortably or to expose the child unduly when it is worn during hot weather with nothing to fill in the open neck. Besides the sleeveless dress there are two pairs of shorts made of the same material as that in the dress. One pair of shorts is attached to a sun-suit top, made of an open cotton mesh in some color to harmonize with the color of the shorts. The sun-suit top is cut low enough in the neck to be completely out of sight when worn under the slip-over dress. The other pair of shorts can be buttoned to a little blouse with sleeves and collar, made of some material which either blends in texture and color with the ma-



Play Clothes Should Be Loose

tuck would be bulky. Besides, the front zipper fastening would interfere with such an arrangement. A dart at the seam in the back where the trouser part joins the waist top, which can be run out to nothing at the side seam, helps to make a suit purchased a size too large look considerably better on the child until he grows enough to need that length. True, such a dart is bulky in heavy material, but it comes at such a place that it pro-

duces neither discomfort nor bulky appearance. Sleeves and legs in such a suit might have the material hemmed back some before joining to the knitted bands so that the hems could be let out for greater length.



Provide Room for Growth

material in the dress and shorts, or furnishes an interesting contrast. This blouse, with its shorts, when worn under the dress, makes a suitable outfit for indoor wear in the winter.

Such a complete outfit as this offers four different ways of wearing; as a sun-suit during the morning in the summer, as a pretty little summer dress in the afternoon, as a rough and tumble play suit when shorts and blouse are worn together, suitable to any season under proper conditions, and last of all, as a pretty dress for all around wear in the winter time.

A sturdy, durable, but attractive material is essential. A good quality gingham or broadcloth would give excellent service.

The same type of outfit for a boy consists of a pair of shorts, cut in one with a sun-suit top, another pair of shorts to be buttoned to a net or mesh sun-suit top, a tuck-in blouse of contrasting color to be worn with either pair of shorts and an overblouse of material to match the shorts that might be worn over either pair of shorts.

THERE are certain soft, warm colors that are especially well adapted to children because they are becoming to nearly all children. These colors accentuate the fresh, healthy glow in the delicate childish skin. There are certain yellows, especially the ones with creamy tones, apricot and peach colors, and pinks, especially those with some yellow added to soften the pink, and make them blend more closely with skin color, which undoubtedly make one more conscious of the warm, healthy color in the child's face, and less conscious of the bluish tones around the eyes. When that blue is accentuated, a child looks delicate or even ill.

Green seems to be in very high favor at present, both for boys and girls, although when green is selected for a girl, it is often a print and is combined with

white, and is therefore more easily handled than the plain green, usually selected for a boy. A solid green must be selected with care. It should be soft and subtle, yet not too gray. If too bright a green is used, it completely overpowers the child, whereas too gray a color is no longer child-like. A green, to be becoming to a child then, should be both soft and fresh in effect.

One interesting writer on this subject has gone so far as to say, "Dodge all vivid colors and surround the peach bloom complexion of a child by the soft colors that belong with peach and apple blossoms." We might suggest one exception to that advice to dodge all vivid colors. Outer play garments, rain suits, etc., might well be carried out in bright colors to enable the passing motorist to see the child at play more readily.

We cannot leave our discussion of color

without some consideration of blue. Far too much blue is used, especially pale blue on very young children. The skin is so thin and delicate that the tiny blue veins around the eyes show through clearly. They are very noticeable when the child is dressed in a color to match the blue veins. Put a shell pink or peach colored garment on your child one day and a soft blue one the next. Then decide for yourself when he looks healthy, happy and well, and when he seems to be pale and weak. A sturdy, healthy boy or girl of three or four may look very well in clear, crisp blue, especially when the blue is combined with some other color, for instance, a white or printed blouse, with blue shorts for a boy, or a blue and white print for a girl. It is not necessary to eliminate blue entirely from a child's wardrobe, but it is desirable to use it with discretion and careful thought.

May I Present . . .

By Regina Kildee

HELEN, will you introduce the girls to Miss Sponsor at the picnic this afternoon?"

In almost every group there is one person who is called upon to make most of the necessary introductions. Are you, like Helen, one of those fortunate persons who can start two of your friends on an easy and enjoyable conversation by your introduction? Or do you shiver inwardly when it becomes necessary to present one acquaintance to another, knowing that you will hem and haw and murmur the names so that neither person knows nor cares to whom he is being introduced? We all really want the people we know and like to know and like each other, so introductions should be pleasant tasks.

And pleasant tasks they are if we keep in mind a few simple rules. If we wish to make a formal introduction at a dance, say, "Mrs. Chaperon, may I present Mr. Partner?" is proper. If we wish to be more informal, we may say, "Miss Bookworm, Mr. Athlete," or "Miss Bookworm, this is Mr. Athlete." In introducing two ladies, we are correct in saying, "Miss Bookworm, have you met Miss Dater?" Never must we make the mistake of asking a lady if she has met a gentleman. For that would be the height of impropriety!

In introducing two married women, two unmarried women, or two men, the younger is always presented to the older or more distinguished. If only one of the women is married, we present the unmarried woman to her unless the latter is very much older. Unless you are introducing a lady to the president of the

United States, a cardinal, or a ruling sovereign, the gentleman is always presented to her, regardless of the difference in age and importance.

When someone comes into a room in which there is a large group of people, it is not necessary nor even proper to lead him around the room and introduce him to everyone present. Instead, he should be presented to those in the group nearest him, with whom he then enters into conversation. Of course, if there are only a few people in the room, the hostess should make sure that the newcomer meets all of them he does not already know.

Knowing what to do when introduced to someone is often just as difficult as knowing how to make correct introductions. Gentlemen always shake hands with one another upon being introduced. When a gentleman is presented to a lady, she may or may not offer him her hand. Although it is not correct for the man to extend his hand first, she must not ignore it if he does so. Two ladies may shake hands upon being introduced, although they do not do so as generally as do men.

After all, an introduction counts for nothing if we are not able to recall the name of our new acquaintance the next time we meet her. If the person making the introduction has pronounced the name distinctly, it is a simple matter to reply to the introduction, "How do you do, Mrs. Chaperon?" If we look at her while thus calling her by name, we will associate her name and face, so that the next time we meet her we will be able to call her by name and be well on the road to friendship.