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Little Frockes for Little Tots

By MILDRED ELDER

WHERE WE have a summer fashion show of little tofs in various kinds of wear, we would be prepared to play practically every material which can be purchased at the dry goods counters, for there are almost no restrictions on the fabrics which may be used for children's clothes this season.

Some of the newest fabrics available are French sateens, English prints and Japanese crepes. These may be purchased in many quaint and beautiful designs and colors and are especially suitable for children's clothes.

I fell in love with a little frock I saw the other day on a little black-eyed five-year-old. The dress was of black French satin and was made very simply except for some little appliqued figures on the front of it—and you know how you love such little designs. These figures were of red satin and were appliqued on with shiny black thread. The dress was short, for it came above her knees and showed just enough of her little red satin bloomers to be attractive, and nowadays you know that little girls are just as prone to show their bloomers as little boys.

The Japanese crepes come in the loveliest of colors and two or more may be combined giving a lovely effect. Also they are pretty trimmed with bands of bright cretonnes or embroidered in wool yarns. For the child with dark hair and eyes and also the little "red head" why not a brown or lavender for a dress this summer?

It would be quite novel to make a dress of purple Japanese crepe and trim it with bands of cretonne of blue, rose, lavender, black and other colors which blend in with the purple. Think of the effect such a bright little dress would have on the child, too—for do you know that there is a great deal in the psychology of dress?

A pretty combination of crepes for a youngster with "rosy" cheeks would be a grey crepe trimmed with flowered crepe in the pastel shades. A band of the latter at the bottom of the skirt would be different and the flowered material might be repeated in a little vest and cuffs.

The plain chambray gingham and those in tiny checks are always good and can be made in so many attractive ways—and gingham have never been lowlier than they are this year. Wouldn't a little red checked gingham dress made with tiny white organzy frills for trimming be a pretty outfit for the black-haired girl? Or perhaps a rose or green one for her light-haired sister. These frills are very simple to make by using the various machine attachments, and they are a real eye-opener when arranged on the garment in original ways.

Have you ever seen the organzy points and loops that are being shown in the stores today? There are great possibilities in using these on the summer outfit for your little girl. They might be used in a contrasting color in trimming a chambray gingham dress or one of organzy or voile which are so effective and make an inexpensive trimming as well as one that is easily made and laundered. The laundering is one of the things that we must take into consideration when we plan these clothes, for the average mother of today wishes to have some time to give to club work or some other community interest and reach this in mind simplicity must be the keynote in planning the children's clothes.

I am thinking of another little dress which could be made of chambray gingham of almost any color. This skirt is made quite short and full with a tight little waist, the distinctive feature of this dress being some smart little basket pockets. These are made of checked gingham cut on the bias in some pretty little basket shape with the handle tacked at the top to the dress. The flowers for the basket are made of wool yarns of different colors, some being worked on the basket itself and other on the dress around the pocket. The collar and cuffs are made of white organzy and are bound with the checked gingham.

When we begin to plan the party frock for the little girls there are two materials which present themselves to us at once, i.e. organzy and dotted swiss. No one could ask for anything daintier for a summer dress than either of these and we have such a choice of colors in them too.

For theuffy dress of this type nothing is prettier than the little frills and ruffles for trimming and there can be much originality shown in the application of these ruffles. A group of three inch ruffles might be put around the bottom of the skirt and the same thing repeated in finishing the neck and sleeves.

This style of trimming would be most becoming to the slender child, while for the short, plump youngster the ruffles should be arranged in an up and down effect starting at the waist line and curving off as they reach the bottom of the skirt, giving a scalloped effect.

The dotted swiss is usually made up more simply than the organzy, for the dot is quite decorative in itself.

If anyone is skillful in millinery it would be easy to make a small hat to go with the organzy dress.

"No longer is silk the textile of luxury for queens and ladies of rank or even the esteemed fabric for grandmothers Sunday dress, or mother's dinner gown."

The adoption of silk for general use by grown-ups applies equally well to the child's world of dress and fashion. This is because silk has proved for a very long time its claim for useful beauty. Practically all staple silks are represented this season in a large variety of colors. The crisp prints, Japanese crepes and gingham fabrics are good. The heavier materials such as poplin and romper cloth are most satisfactory for little play suits.

For the two-year-old boy, simple little rompers seem to be about the most suitable garment to wear. There can be originality shown and variations developed in the use of buttons, bindings and pockets so that the suits need not look alike. Usually designed gingham material for little animals or other figures are quite fascinating to any child and help to decorate the suit. Don't feel that your little boy must only wear the usual blues and browns for if his personal coloring permits, lavender, green, rose and grey can all be used for his summer outfit.

If only every mother could make a definite study of the proposition of clothes for her children, first studying the personal coloring and general type of her child and then deciding what the most becoming colors and styles are for that particular type.

Then by observing the new ideas she may see in the stores and on the streets, and by originating combinations and designs and turning to the fashion magazines occasionally, it would be a joy to sew for her children, and think of the attractive results she would be sure to have.