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Clothes for Tiny Tots

By HARRETT ALLEN

The heavier, more durable materials are most suitable and designs should be strictly tailored.

Betsy is a lovely little blonde with very dainty ways. She will require the lighter values of blue lavender and greens. Sheer, light weight materials, used with frills and flourishes and developed into quaint designs, are for her. She would be adorable in tiny prints or checks.

One type which seems particularly perplexing in this matter of clothes is the little "red-head." The thing which must be watched in planning clothes for this child is color, since the remarks made above in regard to build and temperament will apply in this case as well. The hair style and color are the ones which will accomplish this purpose would, obviously, be one's choice. Such colors are greens, blues, and green-blues. Browns are good since they harmonize with the hair.

So much for personality study, which helps the mother to discriminate between designs lovely in themselves but which would be wholly out of place on certain children.

As for variation in design; the mother need not buy a pattern every time she wishes to add a new collar, a new sleeve or any other addition to the costume. She should be able to make one and to understand the principles of design and color, and use the miscellaneous suggestions which are offered on every hand as a happy solution. This ordinary stitch would be an excellent way of including a variation in materials and color harmonies, are made.

At the start, the suggestion ought to be made that hope of developing or creating in every mother this article reaches, a "nose" for the unusual or charming in children's frocks and suits, is not entertained. No matter how much or how splendid the advice or direction offered, there are bound to be some women who do not have the native ability or skill required for real success in this field. This explanation, however, is not intended to discourage attempts, for there is always room for improvement, no matter how unfertile the soil may seem to be, but merely to put the reader on her guard and not to expect the impossible or fantastic overnight success. Much practice and observation are required here as elsewhere.

One of the simplest ways, recommended by a clothing instructor, to achieve an effective garment and at the same time be practical, is thru the use of stitchery, commercial braids and bindings.

Junior's suits could be livened up by making bound buttonholes with a contrasting colored bias tape. A fancy checked or striped bias tape might even be used. These buttonholes used with buttons of novel shape and color would make Junior very satisfied with himself. There are also cunning braids with animals, chickens and ducks embroidered on in colors, which the little folks adore. These braids are now sold by many department stores.

In the case of a check the stitchery design would probably be worked out on the checks, keeping it, of course, in close proximity to the bias tape. In the case of the print, however, one might place the stitchery on the tape itself. For instance, two rows of narrow bias tape, placed far enough apart to allow a strip of the underlying material to appear, were joined by a row of cross stitching of contrasting colors.

Bias tape may be used in a variety of ways and one can purchase almost any color. Plain colored tape used with a print or check and combined with a bit of cross stitching or similar stitch is a very effective finish.

Bias tape combined with rickrack has a number of possibilities. For instance, a tiny blue and white print was trimmed with a band of white tape, on either edge of which was placed a row of very fine blue rick-rack. With the same print might also have been used two rows of fine rick-rack, one row being red and the other blue. Another good way of combining rick-rack and tape is to lay the rick-rack quite close to a raw edge of material and then bind the raw edge and the points of the rick-rack coming close to the edge of the bias tape. The rick-rack might be of a color and the tape white or the other way around.

Many times when a quick and easy finish is desired the shell stitch will serve as a happy solution. This ordinary stitch may be made out of the ordinary by using colored thread.

The use of yarns for stitchery purposes cannot be over-emphasized. Such lovely color combinations can be secured in this way, besides offering pleasing contrasts in textures.

These are only a few suggestions which will perhaps serve as a stimulus to the mother who is creatively inclined. As was suggested above, in order to achieve individuality and distinction the mother needs to learn as much as possible about her child as she will express the personality of her child and use the miscellaneous suggestions which are offered on every hand as merely a spur to her own creative ability.