



CHILDREN'S CLOTHING: CLOTHES THAT GROW

Since young children continue to grow rapidly, they need larger clothes often. Many parents exchange outgrown clothes to cut costs. Children's clothes are also plentiful at yard sales and thrift stores. Hand-me-downs and recycled clothing can often be altered or redesigned easily. Children's clothes are most economical when they can expand a bit to allow for growth.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING: APPEARANCE

The appearance of a child's clothing plays an important role in the development of his/her self-image and self-concept. When children are dressed so they look pretty or cute, they receive compliments from others, and even though they may act embarrassed, they feel a sense of pride. The simple act of matching colors can make an outfit more attractive.

Fun, decorative details on children's clothing are a source of attention for the children as well as the adults around them. It is easy to take plain pieces of clothing and add an applique, lace, contrasting fabric, etc., to them and enhance their appearance significantly. These are the details that make children feel special and bring them enjoyment when wearing the article.

If children feel cute and special in the clothing they wear, they generally act accordingly. On the contrary, if they don't feel like they're cute in appearance and/or if their clothing doesn't fit properly, their actions often reflect those feelings.

It is important to remember that children need to be allowed to be children and not miniature adults. They should not be dressed in such a manner that movement is restricted. Children are NOT adornments for parents. Designer labels aren't important to children—only to the parents as status symbols. The child learns about designer labels only if the parents teach them and make a big issue of it. Otherwise, children are happy in comfortable, cute clothes.