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Gerda Petersen

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A Child's COAT



Extension Service, University of Nebraska College
of Agriculture Cooperating with the U. S. Department
of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

Let's Buy...

A Child's COAT

Gerda Petersen
Extension Specialist (Clothing)

A child's own likes and dislikes are important when choosing a coat for him. He likes clothes that conform to the style worn by his friends. He has preferences in color and the feel of a fabric. He likes clothes that fit. Clothes that are too large or too small hinder his activity. He likes pockets that are large enough so he can get his hands into them easily. He likes buttons or zippers that he can manage himself.

Consider Style of Coat Needed

- ☐ Keep in mind the season, the child's activities, and the care required.

Season

- ☐ Winter wear requires a light weight but warm coat. Two or more light weight layers of fabric may add more warmth than one heavy fabric due to trapped air-spaces between the layers. Also, some light weight coats may be planned to be worn over sweaters.
- ☐ Zip out linings provide warmth when it's needed and make a coat more versatile. Foam backed outer fabric or linings are light weight and add extra warmth.

Activities

Look for a coat suited for the purpose intended such as play, school, or dressy wear.

Care Requirements

- ☐ Check the label carefully before buying and then follow instructions for care.
- ☐ 1. Some can be either washed or dry cleaned.
- ☐ 2. Some are washable, such as coats made of cotton poplin or a synthetic with an acrylic pile lining.
- ☐ 3. Some cannot be dry cleaned, such as vinyls.

Selection by Size

Most sizes are based on the relationship between weight and height. This is the best guide. The child's age has little to do with the size number. Children's sizes are in five general classifications: (1) Infants and Babies, (2) Toddlers, (3) Childrens, (4) Girls, and (5) Boys.

The age ranges in the first three may overlap. Some toddlers sizes may be larger than the smallest children's sizes.

Some shops and mail order catalogues may have height-weight charts related to size numbers. You may find differences in the fit of specific brands because some manufacturers adhere closely to a sizing standard while others do not.

Check for Fit and Comfort

- ☐ 1. Shoulders should be roomy enough for free movement of the arms yet small enough so seams stay in the right place on the body.
- ☐ 2. Sleeves and armholes should allow free movement.
- ☐ 3. The coat neckline and collar should be low enough in front so it doesn't bind and snug enough in back so it doesn't ride up or slip down.

Check for Growth Features

Most children change little in width as they grow in height. Coats will generally need lengthening rather than any other alteration. Look for:

- ☐ 1. Hems that could be let down.
- ☐ 2. Cuffs on sleeves that allow lengthening.
- ☐ 3. Raglan sleeves that allow for growth and are more comfortable and easier to put on over a sweater than set-in sleeves.

Check the Fabric

Is it durable?

Does it show soil readily?

Is it light weight but warm?

Is it color fast?

Depending on the use of the coat, is the fabric—

* soil resistant?

* water repellent?

* flame repellent?

* bright yellow or fluorescent color for foggy weather?