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## Planning and Selecting a Years Wardrobe for an Elementary School Girl Whose Father's Income is \$750 a Year

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DEDICATED

To

My Father and Aunties

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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T

-:-

The writer wishes to express her appreciation to Miss M. L. Powell, an Instructor of Home Economics at Prairie View State College, for her constructive criticism in the writing of this thesis.

Elvis Vivian Toliver

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## I N T R O D U C T I O N

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Frequently the women are required to assume the responsibility for meeting the clothing needs of members of the family. It is important to consider the clothing needs of the family as a unit which is of separate elements, each determined in part by the activities of the individual members.

Mothers must know the principles of color and design well enough to enable them to choose becomingly and attractive clothes for their children; they must know how clothing helps to maintain health and comfort; they must understand the economic basis for planning clothing budgets.

The consideration of saving time and energy is especially essential when planning childrens's clothes. When simplicity is the key-note of the entire wardrobe there is more time and more strength for other matters of importance.

## PURPOSE

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The purpose of this thesis is: to give definite information that will aid mothers in obtaining the greatest satisfaction from the money they spend for their children's clothing.



### Method of Procedure

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In order to serve the information necessary to aid any one in planning and selecting a wardrobe for a child the author has tried to indicate plans by which the mother might use as a guide in selecting her child's wardrobe.

The author has also given a suggested budget which is simple and inexpensive. The material in this budget was collected from periodicals, magazines, and text books.

## Factors That Will Affect the Plan

Amount to be spent for Clothing:- The amount to be spent for clothing varies with the income and the number of members in the family.

The author uses an imaginary family consisting of a father, mother, a girl twelve, and a boy six, receiving a yearly income of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750).

J.B. Leeds divides the proportion of the family clothing expenditure as follows, using 15% of the yearly income for clothing.

Father	27%
Mother	31%
Child, 12	22%
Child, 6	20%

The amount to spend for the family clothing for the year is \$112.50. In this study the author selected the twelve year old child, whose clothing allowance is \$22.50.

Able suggests that the clothing allowance be divided as follows.

Outer garments	60%
Under garments	10%
Hats	8%
Shoes	22%

1

J.B. Leeds M.H., P.H.D. The House-hold Budget, P.164, Phil. 1917.

2

Able, Mary, H. Earning and Spending the Family Income J.B. Lippincott Co., Chicago.

Climatic Conditions:- In regard to variety and types of garments needed in the north temperate zone the wardrobe is confined to garments providing warmth. Yet they should not be too heavy. In the south there is a change in the weight and texture of clothing. In warm weather select cool clothes and those which allows sunlight to reach the body.

Activity of the Community :- In strictly rural communities there is very little to be found in the way of intertainment here and there we find a few activities going on such as pageants, which would not be interesting to the small child. Here we see in a situation of this kind that the child wouldn't have a need for clothes other than church, Sunday-school, and school wear.

On the other hand in urban communities there are shows, clubs, and other means of entertainment for the child. This child would have a need for more clothes than the one living in a rural community.

Activity of the Girl:- The activity of the present day child differs markedly from the child of Elizabethan times. In those days children were expected to sit still, and never to rump. Present day children are recognized as having an environment far different from his parents. Recognition of this fact has led to the adoption of patterns for children's clothes that permit ease of movement, comfort, rest, durability and clothing

that is easily cleaned.

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### Selection of Suitable Garments

Ready to wear:- A garment is selected because of its construction and fabric. In buying ready-made garments see that all construction is smooth, flat and neatly finished. Test the strength of the seam by pulling the garment along the seam line. It should be strong, the stitch perfect, and thread of good quality and correct size for the material.

In buying ready-made coats, it is desirable to have a coat of a rather heavy material that the wind will not penetrate. Simple cut coats are suitable for a child. The use of fur on children's coats should be discouraged.

The under garments should be tested for strength and construction as the outer garments should be durable, washable, and absorbent.

The child's clothing should be made of material that is chosen for endurance and fast colors. In general yarn dyed material such as gingham, chambrays, and devanshires are durable materials. Cottons are usually preferred to wollens.

Garments Made by the Mother:- The number of garments made in the home depends on the number of members in the family, the mother's occupation, and her household duties, therefore allowing her more time to do her family sewing. If she is not employed outside of the home, she will have more time for sewing, but if she is employed, her time for sewing is limited. The average mother who is not employed outside of the home should be able to make such garments for her children as simple one piece dresses, underwear, and blouses, etc.

Clothing Budget:-

Article	Price
Outer garments	
Protective:	
light coat (1)*	
heavy coat (4)*	\$1.95
rain coat (1)*	
Sweaters:	
1-long sleeves (1)*	
1-short sleeves(3)*	.75
Dresses:	
1 blue silk dress (2)*	2.50
1 tan jersey dress (b)*	2.00
1 blue wool dress (1) *	
1 shantung dress (4) *	.30
1 gingham print dress (2)*	1.00
1 occasional dress-sheer (2)*	1.75
3 print dresses (1) *	
1 plaid skirt (2) *	1.00
1 navy blue skirt (1)*	
1 sailor blouse (1)*	
1 blouse (2)*	.60

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( Exponent numbers will be identified on next page)

Article	Price
2 play suits (2) *	\$1.00
<b>Hose</b>	
2 long pairs (1) *	
1 long pairs (3) *	.35
<b>Socks</b>	
3 pairs (3) * 3 for	.32
<b>Under garments</b>	
Slips	
1 nainsook (3) *	.48
3 slips (1) *	
1 for ocassional dress (1) *	
3 for school wear	
<b>Bloomers:</b>	
3 pairs cottong jersey (1) *	
3 rayon (3) * 3 for	.61
2 union suits(1) *	
<b>Pajamas</b>	
2 summer dimity (2) *	.67
1 nainsook (1) *	
1 winter pair (2) *	119
2 winter pair (1) *	
<b>Shoes</b>	
1 pair black oxfords (3) *	2.95
1 white pair slippers (3) *	2.00
1 pair school oxfords (1) *	
<b>Hats</b>	
1 tam (3) *	.35
1 hat (3) *	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$22 .50</u>

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Exponent (1) indicates articles on hand  
 Exponent (2) indicates articles to be made by mother  
 Exponent (3) indicates article bought ready made  
 Exponent (4) indicated articles renewed.

## Factors Influencing the Selection of the Budget

Cost :- The ~~cost~~ of clothing for young children costs less than that for adults, especially when made by some one in the home. When clothing is made at home it may average about twenty dollars (\$20.00) per annum, varying with the season, size of the child and status of the community.

"Durability" :- One of the most important things to consider in buying clothing for children is to see that it is durable. A child's clothing should be made of material that is chosen for endurance and fast colors. Cotton is always preferred. In general yarn dyed materials such as gingham, devanshire and chambrays are durable cloths. Some cotton crapes gives greater satisfaction than printed calicoes, lawns and percales unless the latter are well woven and printed in fast colors.

Comfort :- Children's clothes exert such a decided influence upon their health and happiness, that they should have the most thoughtful attention. The individual garment must be suited to the best development of the body, mind, and character. Too often style or fashion is followed without reason and common sense, when the first consideration should be the

comfort of the child. Clothes which are loose enough to permit plenty of activity give the body an unrestricted opportunity to grow. Improper clothing may interfere with circulation, breathing, or digestion; it may cause round shoulders weakened muscles, distorted feet, nervousness, increase susceptibility to colds, and displace certain organs; all clothes should be planned to make wholesome play possible. Tight bands, elastics, which restrict circulation should never be used. In warm weather select cool clothes and those which allow sunlight to reach the body directly.

Upkeep :- To keep clothing fresh and attractive in appearance and to make it wear as long as possible; it should be brushed, aired, and carefully hung up when taken off. A stiff brush or whisk broom is excellent for removing dust from dresses, coats, and suits. After the garment has been brushed and aired, it should then be placed in the closet on a hanger.

Shoes should be aired and polished and put in a shoe bag or shoe rack when not worn.

The hat requires as much attention as the shoes. It should be carefully brushed and put in a hat box or covered with tissue paper.

Hose and under garments should be washed as soon as they are taken off.



These articles should be plain, quickly and easily washed, and easy to repair.

Personality of the Child :- Becoming colors are those which bring out attractively good points in the personal coloring of the wearer. This means that the coloring of the child should be studied and considered when planning clothing. The color of the skin, hair, eyes may be greatly enhanced when the right color is used. There is a bewildering lot of attractive colored fabrics that are lovely for children, but it is not true that a child can wear any color though they have a greater number of becoming ones than adults.

The fair-complexioned child may wear a large variety of colors. The lighter values of the colors are best suited to this type. The child with dark skin will wear the richer deeper shades of colors which are more appropriate than the lighter ones.

Color should suit the personality of the child. One must keep in mind the disposition of the child. Or the type of child in planning colors.

Bright reds and other conspicuous colors used for a bashful, self-conscious child may cause her to feel more ill at ease. Soft rich and duller, though not drab colors will make children feel less conscious of themselves.

Dainty and rich colors are suited to the dainty child, while more daring, clear colors will be suited

for the athletic, vivacious child.

## S U M M A R Y

The code of life for the modern girl includes an ideal of health and strength and activity, therefore her clothing must contribute to the ideals of giving her freedom and action.

The necessity of different kinds of clothing is determined by the various activities. The suitability of color and design is determined by the type and age of the girl. Her clothes should be cared for daily.

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