

HINTS FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER.



Summer Frocks For Small Folks

By Mary Eleanor O'Donnell



A Dainty Frock for a Tiny Hostess.



Sailor Costume for the Sailor Lad.



Ready for the Morning Romp.



Short Waisted Effects Are Still Popular for the Wee Lady's Dressing Frocks.



This Season's Rompers Are One Piece Affairs.

THE mother who has many little folk in her family realized a long time ago that sewing for children cannot be limited to the seasons. Generally speaking, twice a year she looks to her own clothes and does what she can to freshen up her wardrobe, but what the children shall wear is a never ending question. Before each season is half over if they have not worn out their clothes they have grown out of them. There is always need for something new. This is particularly true of their warm weather clothes. I am sure it will bring a sense of relief to every mother who makes her children's clothes to know that the best dressed children, the children whose frocks are designed with never a thought of economy, are wearing today the most simple of frocks. The day of the fussy little dresses trimmed and beribboned, is decidedly a day of long ago. In making clothes for children it is most unwise to put much handwork on the clothes, especially when children seem to grow taller over night. The embroideries bought by the yard are particularly lovely this season and are used extensively on children's garments in place of handwork.

Conservatism rules in juvenile styles this summer. This keynote governs every design, fabric, and trimming. In this respect children's fashions have followed those of their elders. The rule confining cut and trimming features to the most simple of forms, as well as to style, governs both fashions. Russian blouses are always a favorite for children and continue their vogue into this season. Many of the little dresses carry out the peasant idea, which is the fashionable feature for the summer gowns of women, in having the seamless shoulder with the waist and sleeve cut in one. The sleeves in the majority of the summer dresses for little girls are short. Many one piece dresses are also worn and belts have never been so much in vogue as this season. While the nor-

Dresses with the side openings are extremely good style. They are smart, made of durable wash fabrics with darker bands of the same material as trimming. In wash materials for these little frocks the demand covers a wide range. In the colored dresses gingham, percales, chambrays, linens, and lawns are largely used. In white, lawn, organdie, plain and dotted swiss, plain and cross barred dimities, reps, and piques are all included.

In the heavier fabrics for wear on cooler days there are attractive serges, cashmeres, fancy worsteds, such as checks, small plaids, and the mixed effects. Much attention is paid these days to the materials selected for children's clothes, and the fabric always suits the type of dress. For everyday wear the favorite choice is cottons of serviceable gingham weaves. For play dresses rep and materials of that type, with piques and dainty lawns for the afternoon and dressier wear.

Without doubt American children are more sensibly clad than the children of any other nation. The simple little one piece dresses and suits for both little girls and little boys are not only good looking but, what is more important, more easy for the busy mother to make than the fancy lace and embroidery trimmed frocks of former days.

This year's styles for children's dresses are more softened in effect than they were last season. The straight, severe lines of the one piece dresses are varied in line and general character. Instead of the straight side closing dress of last season the upper part may extend over the shoulder and fasten with big buttons, each set in a round scallop, or again the closing may be with pointed or rounded tabs.

One charming little frock shown was fastened at the neck down the center front to the waist line, where the skirt portion was fastened over in an extension with large buttons. Another little frock had a straight panel front and back, with a long side bodice from which hung the short plaited bounce of a skirt. A soft silk sash was drawn through the buttonholed openings. The novelties in children's coats carry out the fashion tendencies, and the Russian and the peasant type are both seen. A pretty style which has been taken from the fashions of the older folk and seems even more suited to the little toddlers are the coats with plaited skirts. They are really charming when made with the long, straight body portions, with plaits inserted at the sides or all around plaited skirt.

Many of these coats have the long lapels reaching to below the waist line, faced with soft silk. As they are usually double breasted, lapping wide over to the left side, the coat folds over high on the chest, giving the necessary protection. To be sure, there are many of the regulation straight box coats with decorations and others made newer looking by the soft rolling collar faced with silk or linen.

Collars of lace and embroidery, both wide and narrow, in varied shapes will be worn on little folk's coats. They are dainty and pretty and always give a fresh, sweet look to the children's garments. For warm weather wear coats of pique, rep, linen, and embroidery are being shown.

Rompers, which are such a delight to the child and such a comfort to the mother, are made more attractive than ever this season. The bloomer portions of the rompers are made so full that they have the appearance of a skirt.

Hats for the little girls take on much of the prettiness and colorings of the grownup headgear. Children wear a great deal more color on their hats than formerly, and this season their little heads are covered with old blues, dull reds, and pinks. Most of the hats have wide brims that are merely elongated from the crown and reach the edge of the eyebrow. Plain and fancy Neapolitan braid is much used, although most of the fine straws that are found in hats for women of fashion are also utilized in the making of children's hats. The trimmings include all the small flowers, roses being greatly used, quantities of ribbons and much liberty silk for facings and rosettes.

Among the hats for everyday wear the sailor with drooping brim is perhaps the most to be preferred. Simple velvet ribbon bands seem to be the chosen trimming for these. There are a great number of washable hats, from that with the buttoned crown to the ever useful sunbonnet; and, by the way, the small girl of fashion of today has almost as many sunbonnets as she has tub dresses. Some are made of eyelet embroidery lined with pink silk and others are simple little hand embroidered white linen ones. With these sunbonnets the small maid frequently has three or four different

linings, so that when she wears a white afternoon dress with much beautiful embroidery as its trimming she completes her little costume with an all over embroidered sunbonnet lined with the silk matching in color her sash.

Kindergarten little girls, and the older girls, too, are always needing aprons. A practical school apron is made in two pieces, with a plain waist portion attached to a circular belt, and a circular skirt portion also attached to the belt. The apron has patch pockets. Such an apron is attractive made of lawn or cross bar dimity, while if it is to be used for helping mother at home linen in the natural shade will be found serviceable. For the tiny girls all white flowered swiss makes a pretty apron, and, of course, plain lawn.

The dressing of a small boy is always a difficult problem—that is, in the selection of the styles and the materials—as the actual construction of the little dresses themselves is simple in the extreme. This is to be a tan summer for boys in more ways than one. Nearly everything shown for these small chaps are in the brown or tan shades in the wash suits, as well as in the woolen weaves. All shades from the natural colored linen to the regular tobacco brown are used. The coarse linens that resemble bur-laps or hop sackings are especially attractive, novel, and serviceable. The short trousers are nearly always, in these summer suits, loose at the knee—that is, they

give the effect of being loose at the knee, but are really fitted with elastics in the usual casings, which clasp the leg and thoroughly cover the underlines.

The loose jerkin that accompanies these trousers is made in two pieces, seamed together under the arm and over the shoulder in the regulation peasant line. Enlarged by the side slit or opening, the garment is sufficiently roomy at the neck to be slipped over the head and closed at the side with two big buttons. Bands of darker brown outline the neck and sleeves. Several kinds of belts are shown with these ready made suits, including the stitched bands of darker materials, corresponding with the trimming materials, belts of tan leather, of black, red, or of sapphire blue patent leather.

Marine blue, which is a colder, harder blue than the dark blue, is a favorite shade for serge suits. At the same time the small checked, striped, and almost invisible plaid suitings and light tweeds are the more serviceable for everyday wear. This year these materials all show hints of the colors that men have been wearing for a year past in the neutral shades of olive, green, old reds, and even now and then a purple thread among the gray and the black ones.

The Russian blouse continues popular for boys. Galateas and the coarse linens are the best clothes these suits can be made of. They wear well and wash excellently. All shops sell them and they run wide. Any color may be had, but the blues and browns are best. The blouse of these suits can either be buttoned down the front or slipped over the head. Of course, there are many other fabrics suitable for spring wear, such as serges, reps, and poplins.

The shoes of the small boy are similar to his sister's, those of the lad of 8 years or more radically different. They are made with spring heels, blucher soles, patent leather vamps, and calf or kid tops.

The hats for the big boys are of crush or soft felt, designed to meet the demands of their wearers, who always thrust them into their pockets when not wearing them tipped on the back of their heads. Or they may compromise on a soft Tyrolean shape that may be fattened back or down at their wearers' will.

For the really small boy the sailor hat with wide brim slightly rolled up or turned pronouncedly down is used, though the banded sailor caps in blue, white, tan, and other shades will this year, as usual, find favor with some.



Baby Dressed for Her Morning Ride.

mal waist line is seen entirely in the dresses for the older girls, the long waisted effects are still the more popular, with the little folk's dresses. Jumper dresses are also practical and pretty this season and there is always the popular sailor suit.