

# Tips On Buying School Clothes

By Jalyne Strong  
Post Staff Writer

There was a time when buying school clothes for children was easy. In those past days of conventionalism dark pants and white shirts were all that was needed for boys and a few simple jumpers, skirts and blouses outfitted young girls.

But that was before the advent of designer jeans, Nike sneakers and Izod shirts; a time before Michael Jackson and Boy George. Those were the days before children decided that dressing like miniature grown-ups is more fun.

Young children (4-10 yrs.) are not much of a problem. But many a harried parent is seen in department stores trying to convince their pre-teens

and teens that they'll too soon grow out of the \$40 Calvin Kleins. They explain to their pouting children that a red leather jacket like Michael's is just not versatile enough. "You can't possibly wear that to church!" parents exasperate.

Tear-streaked cheeks and large sad eyes will cause some parents to simply purchase the too expensive, outrageous outfits. However, smart parents can use a little ingenuity and win the clothes war by simply following the following ideas:

First, buy clothes for children with "grow allowance." Check to see if seams in jeans or pants are stitched securely for long wear. Make sure fasteners such as buttons and zippers

are firmly attached and are easy for the child to handle. Clothes that a child can grow in for a couple of years often have no defined waistlines; raglan or kimono sleeves; long tucks of blouses and shirts; knit cuffs, waist or neck bands; elastic waistline of skirts and pants; knit and stretch fabrics; and deep hems.

Second, other things to look for in your child's school clothes are that the garments can be worn in many combinations. Separates and coordinate styles are versatile.

Thirdly, you may find good buys at flea markets, yard sales, rummage sales, clothing centers, discount stores or department store basements. Fortunately the look for kids now, inspired by Boy George and Michael Jackson, is that of vintage clothes played up with a little eccentricity. Many of these items can be found at cut rate prices. Nix the leather jacket and buy your child a vinyl wind breaker, it's just as good.

Fourth, take care to assure that clothes purchased are easy to maintain. Different fabrics require different care, all the way from "wash-no iron" to "dry clean only." Think about the cost of keeping the garment clean.

Finally, as with adult wear, children's wear can be extended by adding a few accessories. Purchase a few cute caps, bright socks, vests are exciting and colorful gloves. For children's footwear a pair of good well-structured shoes are a must, but low boots and the new high top sneakers for girls and boys add something extra. These items can make a few outfits go a long way.

If you take note of these suggestions, you will see the end result in a happy well-dressed child.



Back to school fashions are as different as the children who wear them. Above students Michelle (far left), John, Kim and Timothy display the sporty, ath-

letic, the metallic look and the dress look, respectively. (Photo By Teresa Simmons)

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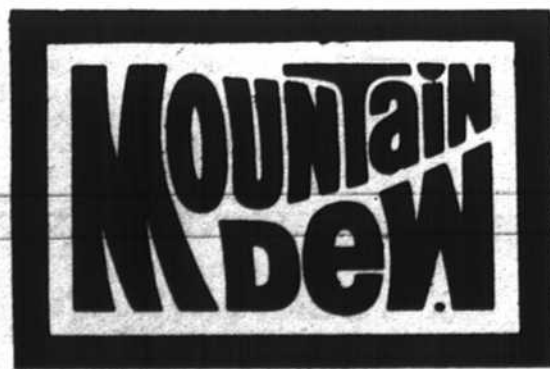
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