

# togs *for* tots

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# TOGS FOR TOTS

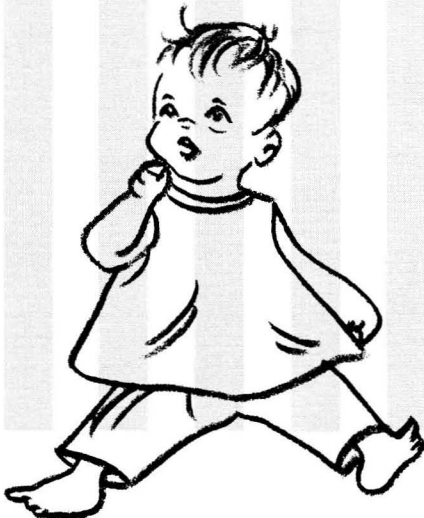
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## FIGURE AND SIZE DETERMINE PATTERN SELECTION.

In home sewing children's clothes, it is important that the right size and type of pattern be selected to insure better fit. Patterns may be selected according to these size groups:

	<i>Sizes</i>
<b>TODDLERS</b>	½ to 4
<b>CHILDREN</b>	½ to 6
<b>GIRLS</b>	7 to 14

The distinction between toddlers and children is important because children wearing sizes ½ to 4 may have the same waist and chest measurements but differ in figure types. The difference between a "toddler" and a "child" is not one of height or weight, but of development. Some children lose their baby proportions earlier than others. Toddler clothes are cut short and frequently flared from the yoke and are made for a baby's short legs and round tummy. When the child's legs become longer, the waistline defined, and the tummy flatter, the child is ready for the more shaped fashions in the children's sizes.



### TODDLERS' SIZES

Large head  
Short neck  
No waistline  
Round tummy  
Short legs

### CHILDREN'S SIZES

Head smaller in  
proportion to body  
Longer neck  
Slimmer waist  
Flatter tummy  
Longer legs

Check the child's measurements to determine the pattern type. Pattern sizes are based on actual body measurements, not on garment measurements or age.\*

#### TODDLERS

<i>Sizes</i> .....	1/2	1	2	3	4
<b>Breast</b> .....	19	20	21	22	23 ins.
<b>Waist</b> .....	19	19½	20	20½	21 ins.

#### CHILDREN

<i>Sizes</i> .....	1/2	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Breast</b> .....	19	20	21	22	23	23½	24 ins.
<b>Waist</b> .....	19	19½	20	20½	21	21½	22 ins.

All the major pattern companies use the same standard measurements, which have been approved by the Measurement Standard Committee of the Pattern Industry after a careful study of the body proportions of a large number of children.

#### COTTON IS TOP FABRIC FOR CHILDREN'S WEAR.

Cotton fabrics are appropriate for children's clothing, but certain qualities of fabric are needed in all children's garments. The fabric should be pliable, non-irritating, durable, lightweight, and firmly woven, with no loose or novelty threads that will catch or pull. Stiff and bulky fabrics should be avoided, because they do not allow freedom of movement in play. Cotton fabrics are desirable because they are more rough and ready than most fabrics for the treatment they will receive. They can be freshened repeatedly with little effort and expense and their newness is not spoiled.

Fabrics for children's garments should be thoroughly shrunk before sewing, to insure the same fit after repeated washing. Corduroy, lightweight woolens, wool, and synthetic blends may be desirable for children's jackets. Check the labels of fabrics if you wish to launder them; some have not been treated for colorfastness and shrinkage control. Vat-dyed and sanforized fabrics are both desirable.

Many cottons have special finishes to make them suitable for children's clothes. Read the attached labels to determine if the fabric is water-repellent, fire-proofed, crease-resistant, drip-dry, sanforized, and color-fast.

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\*For more developed children, a better fit may be achieved by selecting patterns according to types as Sub-teen, Teen, and Junior. These range from sizes 9 to 17 and are selected after measurements of bust, waist, hips, and back waist are taken.

Bright colors, selected to suit the child's age, size, and personality may be desired. Dark colors and all-over designs usually show less soil than lighter shades and solid colors. Expensive fabrics are not practical as the garments are usually outgrown very quickly.

Large plaids and large figures increase apparent size and are out of proportion to the child's figure. Tiny checks and small-figured fabrics are becoming on small children.

#### **COMFORT IS THE KEY TO GOOD STYLING IN CHILDREN'S WEAR.**

In constructing children's clothing and in selecting ready-to-wear, check for growth features. Some growth features which may be used are hidden tucks in skirts; lengthening with contrasting fabric, either on the hem of the dress or petticoat or by resetting buttons on straps. Raglan and kimono sleeves and garments with fullness across the chest are most comfortable and not so quickly outgrown. When straps are used they should be wide and well placed so they do not fall off the shoulders.

Self-help features can help a child to develop motor skills as well as develop more independence in dressing. Front openings using buttons of a size which can be easily managed; zippers with tassels to assist in easy closing; easy-to-reach pockets; and elastic waistbands for boys are some self-help features which may be incorporated in children's clothes. Not all self-help features are comfortable. A garment may be easy to put on and take off, yet be uncomfortable to wear. Comfort comes first, after that convenience.

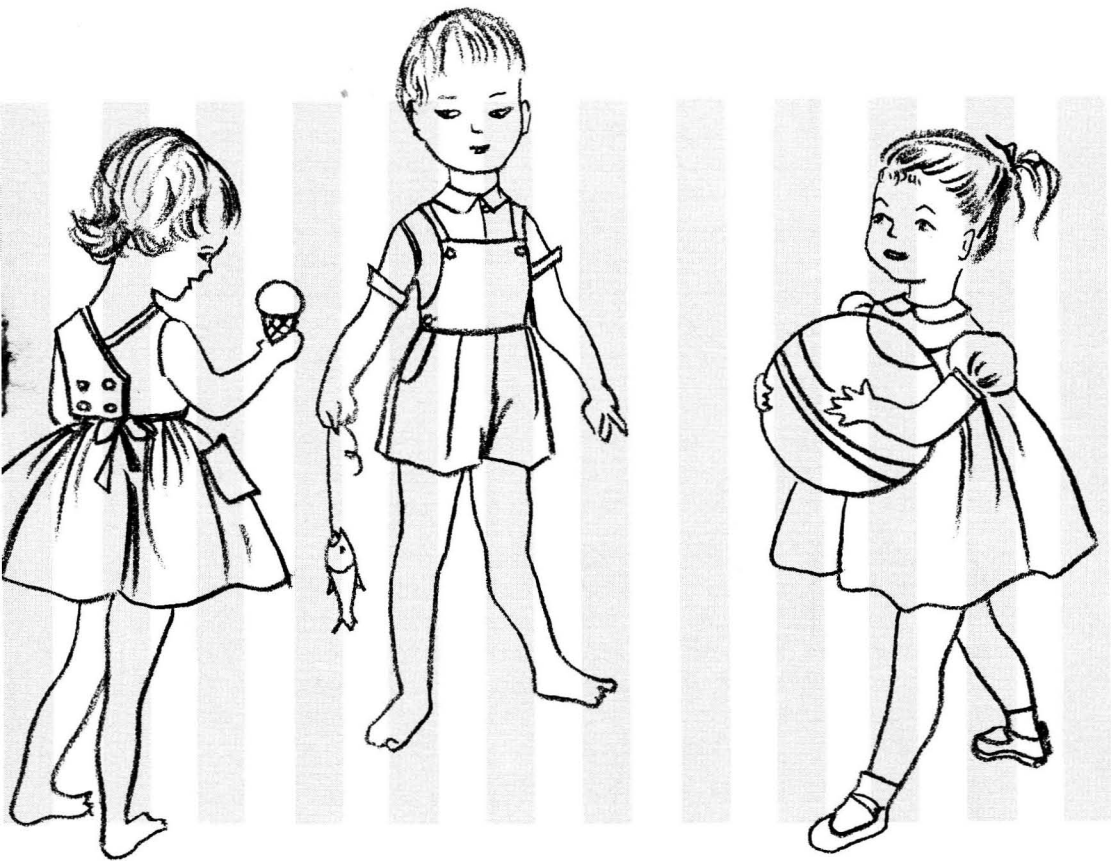




Tight elastics at the waist and knees do not allow for free circulation and are uncomfortable. Children's clothing should be light in weight and without bulk. They should fit well; have the weight supported from the shoulders; stay in place; be comfortable and non-irritating. They should have as few construction lines as possible, not only for the sake of good design but for simple construction and easy laundering.

Closings should be arranged for convenience and the type of fastenings determined by the ease with which they can be managed by the child. Simplicity, comfort, convenience, and ease of management and care are the chief requisites of children's clothing.

For the older child: The style should be becoming to the child's figure. The same principles of design should be applied to the selection of clothing for children as for adults. Use lines in design to make the child appear taller or heavier. Vertical lines give an illusion of height. Keep the design in scale with the size of the child.



**TRIMMINGS SHOULD EXPRESS THE CHILD'S PERSONALITY.**

An applique here or a touch of velvet there, helps to create that pretty-as-a-picture look for the little girl's dress, as well as create added design to a basic pattern. An attractive design or trimming on a little boy's suit or a little girl's dress can help stimulate pride in one's appearance, and this pride can help build confidence and interest in good grooming.

A trimming or applique that is not appropriate or that does not add to the attractiveness of the garment should not be used. It is better to have no trimming on a child's garment rather than have too much or inappropriate trimming. If trimming is desired on a garment and the pattern does not include one, an easy rule to remember is that a trimming should follow the construction lines of a garment or relate to it. Applique on pockets may be used when it is in keeping with the basic lines of the garment. When a ruffle is used on a collar, make the body of the collar smaller so that the finished collar with the ruffling will be no larger than the pattern.

Rickrack, braid, or a row of flowers may be used to repeat the lines of a dress yoke or on the hemline of a full skirt. If, however, the trimming at the hem is too wide, the eye is carried to the bottom of the skirt and away from the dress and the little girl wearing it. The child wearing the garment is most important and neither the dress nor the trimming should outshine her. Any trimming or decoration attracts attention and should complete the costume, and the costume should complement the wearer. If a youngster has a shy personality, care should be exercised in selecting the fabric and the trimming of the garment so that they will not be overpowering.

Scale and proportion are very important in decorating children's clothes. A design must be in keeping not only with the garment it decorates but with the individual. A ribbon or a flower that is too large can overpower the dress as well as the youngster.

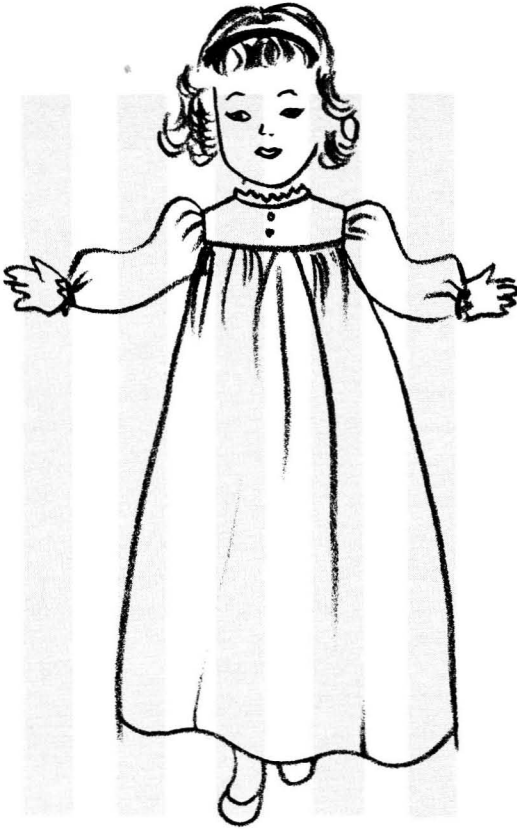
If the garment is of a printed fabric, it is better to repeat one of the colors in it for the trimming. If an applique is used on a plain fabric, as on a patch pocket, printed fabric which blends with the solid color may be used. Bright colors, or prints that do not copy nature can help to stir the imagination and interest the child. Give the child an opportunity to express himself by letting him help choose the design.

Decorations should not only be washable but also flat so that they will be easy to iron. They should be of a quality equal to or better than that of the garment. Trimmings should last the life of the garment. They should also be securely stitched to the garment to prevent their getting caught on toys and furniture.

#### **CHECK WORKMANSHIP WHEN CONSTRUCTING OR BUYING CHILDREN'S WEAR.**

Children's clothes should be well made to withstand hard wear and frequent laundering. Seams and finishes should be narrow, flat, smooth, and pliable for comfort and strength of the garment. The kind of construction is determined by the type of garment, the fabric, and the kind of wear the garment will receive. Stitching needs to be close and properly adjusted, and reinforcements are desirable in places likely to be strained. Children's garments need to be designed with ample cut and style features which permit freedom of movement of all parts of the body.

In purchasing ready-to-wear clothing for children, quality of fabrics, style, design, and workmanship, and trimmings should all be

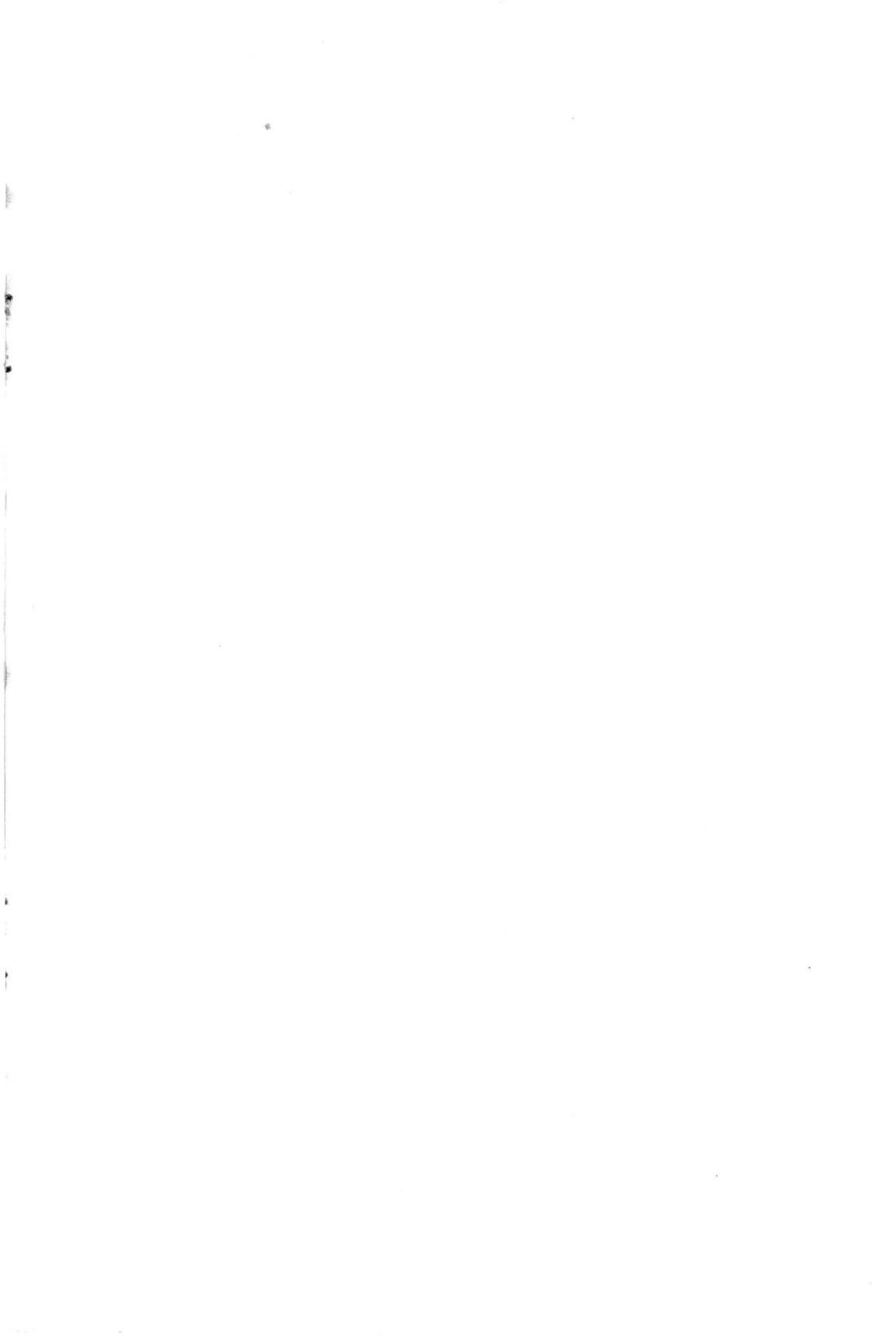


considered, the same as if you were constructing the garments. The garment industry has standard measurements according to sizes as does the pattern industry. However, because each company has its own amount of ease allowance on garments, the same size from different manufacturers may vary. As a rule less expensive garments have less allowance in the fabric and may seem to run smaller in size.

The chart on the next page gives standard measurements of five classifications of size according to height and weight, as set forth by the Commercial Standards recognized by the garment industry.

## COMMERCIAL STANDARD MEASUREMENTS

	<i>Size</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Weight</i>
INFANTS & BABIES	3 months	24"	13 lbs.
	6 months	26½"	18 lbs.
	12 months	29"	22 lbs.
	18 months	31½"	26 lbs.
	24 months	34"	29 lbs.
	36 months	36½"	32 lbs.
TODDLERS	Size 1	31"	25 lbs.
	Size 2	34"	29 lbs.
	Size 3	37"	34 lbs.
	Size 4	40"	38 lbs.
CHILDREN	Size 2	34"	29 lbs.
	Size 3	37"	34 lbs.
	Size 4	40"	38 lbs.
	Size 5	43"	44 lbs.
	Size 6	46"	49 lbs.
	Size 6X	48"	54 lbs.
GIRLS	Size 7	50"	60 lbs.
	Size 8	52"	67 lbs.
	Size 9	54"	75 lbs.
	Size 10	56"	83 lbs.
	Size 12	58½"	95 lbs.
	Size 14	61"	107 lbs.
BOYS	Size 7	48"	54 lbs.
	Size 8	50"	59 lbs.
	Size 9	52"	65 lbs.
	Size 10	54"	73 lbs.
	Size 11	56"	80 lbs.
	Size 12	58"	87 lbs.
	Size 13	59½"	93 lbs.
	Size 14	61"	100 lbs.



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