

Sweet Child of Mine

Whoever said “Children should be seen and not heard” really knew what they were talking about when it comes to kid friendly fashion. Summing up the variety and choices available would take a Herculean effort, but top trends definitely have emerged for the wee ones. Decorum reigns this season with designers pulling away from the Britney Spears school of dressing and putting kids back where they belong—in age appropriate clothing. Gone are the ‘over-the-top’ and ‘garish’ styles of years past. Thank goodness for the Goodwill Store & Donation Centers where you will find great bargains on a wide variety of children’s apparel!

More than ever putting your child together sartorially speaking, is about mixing great newfound pieces, with existing components of their wardrobe. Easy, is the interpretation I noticed, as in unstructured, simple and flowing items for girls and more hip and stylish components for boys.

A tee shirt is the “must have” item to mix with anything for every child. Jersey and super soft cottons, exposed seaming, less embellishment, and a slightly longer, looser fit create an updated look. Print it with an animal motif, or make a statement with a dramatic graphic, just keep it kid friendly please—no adult slogans! This can be worn under a button down shirt, or jean jacket for boys or a rich toned cardigan for girls.

Jeans for girls go premium with higher rises (no belly baring!) and softer styling in mini versions of their moms. They are an important part of a girl’s wardrobe and should be chosen with care.

Skirts, whether a-line or circle, in solids, embroidered with folk motifs or fashioned from assorted prints, are a feminine alternative to the ever popular jeans. Look for details like visible stitching, embroidered ribbon, ruching, eyelet ruffles, and tasteful sequins and beading.



Dresses take a cue from the past with multi-tiered layers, empire bodices and a more feminine feel. Take notice of the return of floral in muted tones, or of bright pops of color like teal, aqua, and sky blue as they team up with deep rose for a surprisingly rich effect. These tones also play well off of tans, browns and burgundies.



On your little man, let's talk denim. The end all and be all of a boy's daily uniform. Denim pants are dark washed in blue or black in boot cut or straight shapes, and predistressed in many cases so they still look great even after the roughest tumbles in the back yard or playground. Boys always need a few pairs to start the year off right.



The way to dress a boy this year is all about layers and mixing it up—textures and patterns. Layer a short sleeve tee over a long sleeved tee or a printed, button-down shirt. Use a sweater vest for interest and throw a hoodie or denim jacket over it all.



For boys and girls seeing stripes is in! Up and down, back and forth, stripes are big in separates whether on skirts, tees, polo shirts, leg wear, shorts, etc. What should you pair them with? Anything! Just remember to keep it fun.



Let your children shop with you at the Goodwill Store & Donation center and let them know your rules. Engage your kids in the activity of getting ready for their day. Help them learn that mixing and matching can be fun and creative. I guarantee there will be no more struggles getting your child “together” in the morning or any other time for that matter!