

South Dakota State University

Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

SDSU Extension Fact Sheets

SDSU Extension

1961

Buying Patterns for Children's Clothing

Cooperative Extension, South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact

Historical, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



For current policies and practices, contact SDSU Extension

Website: extension.sdstate.edu

Phone: 605-688-4792

Email: sdsu.extension@sdstate.edu

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

buying patterns for children's clothing

As in the sizing of children's ready-to-wear clothing (F.S. 89 "Buying Children's Ready-to-Wear"), age is generally of no value when it comes to selecting a pattern for your child. Age has very little relationship to body measurement. It has been found that weight, height, and body type are the best considerations for fitting children's patterns.

Pattern sizes are based on actual body measurements, not on garment measurements.

All of the major pattern companies use the same set of standard measurements, which have been approved by the Measurement Standard Committee of the pattern industry. These measurements were decided upon after a very careful study of the body measurements of a large number of children throughout the country. The following measuring chart is the one used by pattern companies.

Measurement Chart Used by Pattern Companies

Children's and toddler's sizes:							
Buy size	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	2	3	4	5	6
If chest is	19	20	21	22	23	23½	24
Waist	19	19½	20	20½	21	21½	22
Hip	—	—	—	—	—	25	26
Back waist length	—	—	—	—	—	—	10½

Boys' sizes:							
Buy size	1	2	3	4	5	6	8
If chest is	20	21	22	23	23½	24	26
Waist	19½	20	20½	21	21½	22	23
Hip	—	—	—	—	24	25	27
Neck base girth	—	—	—	—	—	11½	12
Buy size	10	12	14	16			

If chest is	28	30	32	34
Waist	24	25½	27	29
Hip	29	31	33	35
Neck base girth	12½	13	13½	14

Girls' sizes:					
Buy size	7	8	10	12	14
If breast is	25	26	28	30	32
Waist	22½	23	24	25	26
Hip	27	28	30	32½	35
Back waist length	11	11½	12½	13	13½

Chubby sizes:					
Buy size	8½Ch	10½Ch	12½Ch	14½Ch	
If breast is	29	31	33	35	
Waist	27½	28½	29½	30½	
Hip	32	34	36	38	
Back waist length	12	12½	13½	14½	

By Anna D. Walker, Extension Clothing Specialist.

buying patterns for children's clothing

OUR CHILDREN'S CLOTHING — SERIES II

Cooperative Extension Service



F.S. 90

Sub-teen sizes:				
Buy size	8	10	12	14
If bust is	28	29	31	33
Waist	23	24	25	26
Hip	31	32	34	36
Back waist length	13½	13¾	14	14¼

Teen sizes:					
Buy size	8	10	12	14	16
If bust is	29	30	32	34	36
Waist	23	24	25	26	28
Hip	31	32	34	36	38
Back waist length	14½	14¾	15	15¼	15½

Although the major pattern companies do make their patterns according to this standard set of measurements, a certain amount of tolerance or ease is always allowed on each pattern. There is no set amount of tolerance allowed and each pattern company decides this for itself. This is why the same size pattern made by two different pattern companies will vary slightly in fit. Some pattern companies vary the amount of tolerance in the patterns, more for one age group than another. The home sewer can learn the best brand of pattern to use for her child's needs based not only on the measurement table but also the amount of ease allowed.

TODDLERS' AND CHILDREN'S SIZES

Figure changes will help you decide which of these pattern types to choose, since the difference in the "toddler" figure and the "child" figure is in development not in height or weight. Some children lose their baby proportions later than others. Clothes for the toddler are cut short and are often flared from the yoke to accommodate the baby's short legs and round tummy, with extra allowed for the bulk of diapers.

Children's range patterns are best when the legs are longer, the tummy flatter, and when the waistline begins to be defined.

The differences in these two figure-shapes of children may be described as follows:

Toddler's Sizes	Children's Sizes
Large head	Head smaller in proportion to body
Short neck	Longer neck
No waistline	Slimmer waist
Round tummy	Flatter tummy
Short legs	Longer legs

Simplicity patterns for toddlers have the same breast and waist measurements as children's patterns of the same size. However, the toddlers patterns are two inches shorter in length in the same size and the shoulders are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch narrower than in the children's pattern in this brand.

BOYS' PATTERNS

All of the pattern companies make patterns for boys cut from the same set of standards and all allow the same amount of tolerance, whether the patterns are listed in sizes ranging from 1 through 6, or 4 through 12.

PATTERNS FOR GIRLS

It is important to remember that as a girl matures, her body contours change as much or more than her height. Figure types vary in several ways, such as in the slope of the shoulder; in the height and the shape of the bust; in the length of the body and legs; and in the size relationships of the bust, waist, and hips. For these reasons it is important to study the pattern descriptions of the different body types before you make a pattern selection.

"GIRLS" PATTERNS

This pattern is designed for the growing girl with a flat undeveloped figure. She needs little or no dart for fit in the bust line. This pattern is for the girl under 5 feet tall.

Sometimes patterns for children are sized from 1 through 6 and those for girls, 7 through 14.

Some pattern companies allow the same amount of tolerance for these two pattern types, i.e., *Vogue*, *Butterick*, and *McCall's*.

Advance Pattern Company varies the tolerance or ease according to the style.

Simplicity uses a different amount of tolerance in the two age groups. For example in children's patterns in sizes 1 through 6, more ease is allowed at the waistline and less at the chest than for the girl's patterns in sizes 7 through 14.

GIRLS CHUBBY PATTERNS

This pattern is designed for the young girl who is of chubby proportions and is heavy in the waist in proportion to her breast and hip.

Sizes $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ are marked CH in pattern books. *Advance* pattern company at the present time specifically designs patterns for the chubby figure.

Simplicity and *McCall's* make some patterns which are especially adaptable for the chubby.

SUB-TEEN PATTERNS

This is a new figure type which has recently come into the pattern picture. The sub-teen pattern appears in sizes 8's to 14's. These patterns are for the girl figure which is still growing, beginning to develop slightly, having more bust than in the "girl" figure but less than the "teen." It might be called a "short teen," a girl about 5 feet to 5 feet 1 inch tall.

Four of the major pattern companies are now making sub-teen patterns. They are planned for girls in early adolescence.

The big difference between the sub-teen and the teen pattern is in the size of the bust line dart, the bust measure of the sub-teen is one inch smaller and the waist length in the sub-teen is one inch shorter than in the teen pattern, since the waist of the sub-teen girl is a little more fleshy, the result is that in the two pattern types the waist measure is the same. The hip measurements are also the same.

TEEN PATTERNS

This pattern is designed for a figure more developed than the sub-teen. The teen pattern is proportioned for a girl about 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 4 inches tall.

Teens or "regular teens" patterns are designated 10 T, 12 T, 14 T, and 16 T. This teen is about 3 inches taller than the sub-teen and also 4 to 8 pounds heavier.

LEARN TO TAKE MEASUREMENTS TO DETERMINE PATTERN SIZE

Use a tape measure that does not stretch. You need to take four measurements to determine correct pattern size and type:

Bust or Chest—Over the fullest part. Hold the tape measure snug but not tight.

Waist—At the natural waistline. The natural waistline can be determined by having the child bend sideways. The natural break is the waistline.

Hip—At the largest part of the hips.

On Girls: Back waist length—From the bone at the back of the neck down the center to the natural waistline.

On Boys: Neck base girth—Stand the tape measure on edge and measure the circumference of the neck at the base (where shirt collar comes).

Compare the measurements taken to those in the Measurement Chart. If child's measurements vary somewhat from those given in the Measurement Chart buy the pattern which seems nearest in size. If this means a pattern which is either larger or smaller than the child's measurements in some places, select the large size because of a child's rapid growth. However, never select a pattern which is so large a child has to grow into the garment.