

## Dick and Jane dress up

# It's a head-to-toe kind of happening

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Even though it may seem like kid's stuff, fashions for children keep right in step with fashion trends.

Out of the blue jeans and into more skirts isn't just for the big girls, it's what's happening at all ages.

And Dad isn't the only one into the three piece suits these days. Dave Trachtenberg, president of one of the nation's leading makers of boys' clothes, said recently that life styles may be casual, but there is a place for dress-up clothes for boys.

Trachtenberg said a lot of boys really fight getting dressed up, but today's newer, softer fabrics, which provide more comfort, make a difference.

"Today's look is quite dressy, yet it's got a lot of flexibility too. Blazers, slacks and vests can be worn with other separates," he said.

"The concept is so basic that the pieces work in myriad ways, from the most formal holiday dinner to a weekend high school disco dance."

Another clean fresh look for boys can be put together with pale colored cotton slacks by Pierre Cardin and a straight-lined close-to-matching top with long sleeves.

Pierre Cardin isn't the only big name designer who's delving into children's fashions this season. The YSL signature of Yves Saint Laurent is gracing

some romantic, bright dresses.

CHARM and elegance are the motif in his younger-set designs which are a spin-off from his Rive Gauche collection. Saint Laurent has kept the romance in the dress, casual as well as sportswear styles, new in the stores right now.

Dressier styles are done in sheer dotted linen or white-dot silk jacquard, with airy kimono sleeves, deeply set, and lots of pleats and tucking. Many sport high yokes and ruffled collars or hems.

One romantic kimono-sleeved dress with square neckline comes through in classic French spirit, in banana colored silk jacquard with tucking down the front. The square necked yoke, button tab sleeves and self-tie sash are in terracotta.

Sailor themes and Magic Marker bright colors also run through the collection and a group of dramatically colored dresses combine extensive use of small polka dots and ruffles.

Saint Laurent's white poplin suit of long-sleeve jacket and button-front plaid skirt is taken right out of his woman's ready to wear collection.

Returning to the dressy with a hint of romance is a head to toe kind of happening. Those who know say there's a parallel return to dressier shoes and boots.

"The western influence is stronger than ever," said Vera Schey of Hanes and Gretel Shoppe in Birmingham, "but pointy toes and ballet slippers are big items."

She added they do a big business with clogs by Olof's Daughters, which she named as an "important trend for sport and dress, available in twelve colors." Sophistication is part of romance and

Linda Schlesinger of Rainbow Lollipop in Birmingham says every time they get a black dress for little girls, it's a big seller.

Even the birthday party set is showing up these days with something pretty for Susie or Jimmie to wear more often than toys, one Mom said.

Where there's spring, there must be romance.



Two versions of Yves Saint Laurent's little girl dresses will delight the girl from three to 13. On right is his sheer linen white-dotted frock with flounced hem and rounded neckline. On left, is his two-piece blouse and skirt outfit with rounded yoke, ruffled collar and bit of tucking on the bodice.



Betsy, 3, only has eyes for David, 6, when the two dress up for a stroll in the park. David's cotton coveralls with an overshirt for Jean Le Bourget is from Rainbow Lollipop. Betsy's dusty pink and white print

dress with white eyelet pantaloons is an updated version of antique pattern designed by Elizabeth Ptak of California. Also from Rainbow Lollipop.

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