



and baby tee (from left), a floral pointelle knit dress or striped knit dress with lettuce-edged hem and sleeves,

# Denim reigns over school fashions

BY SUE MASON

Whoever it was who said you can't legislate taste probably took his kids shopping for school

his kids shopping for school clothes.

The buttle between youngsters who just know they can't live without the latest (and most expensive) fad gear and parents who know their children need clothes that are durable, affordable and appropriate is worth fighting, says Dr. Robert Butterworth, the child psychologist.

"But we shouldn't approach it as a battle," Butterworth said. "It's an opportunity to parent responsibly and build consumer skills in a generation that will certainly need those shillites."

An important reason is that even grade schoolers are treated differently based on how they're dressed. If they look ready to learn, teachers will expect and get more out of them, according to Butterworth. Novelty items might be all right for playtime, but the classics are still the right thing for the classroom.

So what's "classic" for back-to-school 1995? It's a one-word an-

So what's "classic" for back-toschool 1995? It's a one-word anword denim.

"You can probably narrow
back-to-school fashions down to
three key things— texture, layers
bocker, children's area manegor at
Jacobson's Lauro! Park store in
Livonia. "Designors are mising a
lot of different fabrics together to
create a lot of different textures

... with lots of layers, like a tee
under a three-button Henley with
a vest."

This fall, it's not uncommon to
find a floral print rayon dress and
denim vest worn with a tee. In
fact, Knickerbocker said, the vest
is a key item in the layered look.
There are plenty of fleeco jackets,
worn over tees and tartan plaids
in red, nay and green. And completing the look this fall: layered
tights and socks and shoes in patent leather with lug soles or
chunky heels.

"That little Mary Jano is now a
Mary Jane with lug soles and
loafers with chunky beels."
Knickerbocker said.

Denim rules

Likewise, denim rules at J.L.

Hudson, where kids will be wearing denim dreases, vests, jacket,
shorts and accessories, according
to M.J. Burns, the retailer's fashion director.

"Denim is absolutely number
one in everything." Burns sold.

"It's the number one fabrication
for the 1995 school year."

Denim jeans have been popular
since Levi Strauss fashioned the
first pairs in the 1870s. Today,
it's a critical staple for kids of all
ages, and another big fabric is
flannel shirts, Burns said.

Denim jeans and shorts, a hot
silhoutet this fall, are pairing up
with flannel shirts, thermal tops,
polar fleece tops, college logo
sweatshirts and logo athletic Tshirts for boys, with girls donning
polar fleece jackets, Esprit logo
sweatshirts, embroidered Mickey

denim, Mickey jumpers, denim overalls and novelty knit tunics.

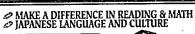
For young men, Hudson's has Lovi's 550, Silvertab and 550 jeans, flannel shirts, Girbaud Brand X Jeans, long-sleved thermal Henleys, pigment-dyei fleece, screen T-shirts, Guess? Pascal Jeans, and printed reverse fleece CPOs.

For juniers, it's ribbed tops, flannel shirts, denim jeans, overalle, vests and jackets, away sets, Henleys, piald skirt, jumpers and walk shorts, Burns said.

And, again, footwear includes those "good old thick-soled" shoes, made populer by Doc Maiten.

"The designer Yves St. Laurent was quoted once as saying that he wished he had invented blue jeans because they have expres-

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