

PREFERENCES OF A SELECTED GROUP OF MOTHERS FOR  
CLOTHING OF GIRLS THREE TO SIX YEARS OF AGE

by

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B. S., Kansas State College  
of Agriculture and Applied Science, 1932

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A THESIS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Clothing and Textiles

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE

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## INTRODUCTION

The more recent scientific approach to child care and training has focused attention on the special clothing needs of children. It has been found that clothes have a pronounced effect on the health and the habit formation of the child. Today the emphasis in clothing is to make the child more comfortable, healthier and better adapted to his surroundings. Normal children are very active. They run, climb, squat, skip, hop and jump constantly. Their clothes must not interfere with this normal activity, and garments must be able to withstand the strain of such strenuous wear. Normally, active children are also independent, that is, they like to do things for themselves. The clothes chosen should be so constructed that they can manage them with little help. Here begins the trait of self-reliance that will be valuable to the child later in life. Functional clothing is important both from the standpoint of the mother and the child. Mothers may be missing an important opportunity for developing in children self-reliance and good taste if careful attention is not given to clothing choices. One might wonder to what extent ready-made apparel is influencing the choice of mothers for children's clothing.

During recent years as an Extension Clothing and Textiles specialist, the writer has worked with hundreds of mothers who were continually asking for information on children's clothes, but little was known of the practices followed in assembling wardrobes for these younger members of the family.

This study was therefore undertaken to ascertain the preferences of a selected group of 100 mothers for the clothing of girls three to six years of age, to know how present wardrobes were provided, to note the variations in choices of clothing for girls as influenced by income, to gain a better understanding of the preferences of mothers for style features, fabric and color in children's clothing, and to provide data for planning lessons for an adult clothing program.

#### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

No studies have been reported that deal with mothers' preferences of clothing for the girl three to six years of age. There are, however, a number dealing with habits of the consumer in selection and buying of clothing, especially for children's wardrobes which have some bearing on the study being pursued.

#### Buying Habits

One hundred families from eight states in the southern and southwestern sections of the country were studied by Bowen in 1939 (2) to learn something of the habits in buying clothing for children through 15 years of age. The investigation concerned the general buying habits, the habits in buying specific articles of clothing and the family status. Almost all of the mothers preferred cotton anklets for their children. Elastic was preferred in the top of socks by over half of the homemakers. Wool was preferred for coats. Self-help features on

garments influenced the buying of 76.9 per cent of the women. Print was desired by 70 per cent for everyday dresses, whereas 36 per cent mentioned gingham. Material preferred for party dresses were crepes, taffeta, organdy and dimity. Cotton was the preference by most mothers for undergarments. Knitted under and sleeping garments were preferred by the consumer. The information that consumers felt would be of most value to them in their selection of clothes for children included fastness of color, washing directions, shrinkage, and name of manufacturer. A good deal of home sewing was done by the group. The articles most often made at home were dresses, pajamas, nightgowns, slips and play clothes. Locality and income levels appeared to have little influence upon the kind of articles made in the home. High shoes were desired for the children of preschool age. Fifty-six per cent of the consumers reported that their children wore no overshoes in bad weather.

The study of children's wardrobes conducted by Pennington and Gross (7) showed that the number of home-made garments decreased as the age of the children and the size of the family increased. This study was made in 1931 among 71 families of East Lansing, Michigan, who had children between two and seven years of age and whose incomes ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The data were collected by the inventory method. This study indicates that there was an average of one made-over garment and 4.5 "hand-me-down" garments in a girl's wardrobe. Among the different types of dresses found, cotton ones with panties to match were much preferred for general wear, appearing nearly twice as often as

dresses without panties in the wardrobes of the two or three year olds, and three times as often for girls four or five years old. For wear on special occasions, however, the dresses without matching panties were more prevalent.

#### Provisions for Self-Help

A number of authors have expressed an opinion on the importance of self-help features in children's clothing. Scott and Smith (9) believe little girls' clothing should be constructed so that they can take garments off and put them on with little or no help. Plackets at the front, within easy reach, fastenings, few in number, and of a type that a young child can manage encourage self-help.

Scott and Smith (9) and Scott (10) agree that medium sized buttons, round, flat with a slight groove that keep fingers from slipping off, are easiest for children to manage. They mention slide fasteners as being easy for the child to manage. Haynes (3) states that independent children like to dress themselves and recommends that this trait be encouraged by selecting items of clothing so simple in design that they cannot possibly be put on wrong. She further suggests that all plackets and openings be placed in the front, and fastenings be used that the child can manage easily.

Armstrong (1) suggests that plackets and openings be as few as possible and easy to reach.

The following devices listed by Rathbone and Tarpley (8) have been found helpful in teaching a child independence in dress:

front closing, cloth loops, tab closings, as few large buttons as possible to hold the closing together well, and four buttons on a drop seat undergarment. MacCloskey (6) in 1945 designed and evaluated self-help clothing for children. She believes functionally-designed garments need not be complicated to construct nor difficult to care for. The clothing designed in this study was constructed to eliminate need for mending, button-sewing, or special handling in washing or ironing. Latzke and Quinlan (5) suggest if buttons are used, those one-half to three-fourths inch in diameter are most satisfactory. Other fastenings mentioned include cloth or cord loops, and slide fasteners. They state front openings are most satisfactory.

#### Provisions for Growth

Authors agree that clothes for the child should provide for growth if reasonable satisfaction is to be gained from the expenditure of time and money entailed in providing an adequate wardrobe.

Several of the authors mention a raglan style sleeve as a feature which allows for growth. La Bossier (4) states that design features rather than extra size will allow for growth such as loose armholes and sleeves, preferably the raglan style. Raglan style sleeves are mentioned by Young (11) as being comfortable, permitting free movement. She further suggests a wide, long stitched tuck under the hem as a help in anticipating the child's rate of growth. Deep hems, six to eight inches for dresses, adjustable suspender straps, and fullness across the back and chest

are features suggested by Scott and Smith (9), La Bossier (4) and Haynes (3). The last named author, however, points out that "clothes that are too large are almost as harmful as those that are too small. Clothes that have to be 'grown into' never look or feel just right."

#### Importance of Color

Several authors discuss the satisfaction gained from color in dress as well as the importance of color in developing a child's taste. Armstrong (1) believes that children begin to develop color preferences early in life. She states, "By letting a child have what he enjoys insofar as possible, a wholesome pride in appearance is encouraged. Also it lays the basis for good taste in later years." La Bossier (4) says that since children react at an early age to color their clothing may well help to develop their color sense. Scott and Smith (9) suggest that colors be chosen for their attractiveness and suitability to a child's age, size and personality. They point out that gay colors are a protection to children under present day traffic conditions.

#### Fabric

Materials must be durable but light in weight to be satisfactory for children's apparel according to Haynes (3). She further states fabrics must be firm in construction but yielding and flexible for activity, and the texture soft, smooth and non-irritating to the skin. Fabrics that are washable, fully shrunk

and color fast are recommended. If patterned material is used, the design should be small in size. Scott and Smith (9) recommend firm materials that are made with even weaves, having no loose yarns.

Knitted materials according to Lutzke and Quinlan (5) provide air spaces which act as non-conductors of heat, keeping the body heat in during the winter and protecting the body from the heat of the summer. They provide elasticity which adds to the freedom of movement.

#### Trim

Little or no trim is desirable on children's clothes according to Scott and Smith (9). The tendency is to over-decorate rather than to improve a child's appearance by the use of trim on garments. Haynes (3) states that any trim used must be simple, flat, easy to wash and iron, and must not interfere in any way with the child. Rathbone and Tarpley (6) feel that the decoration on children's clothes should be simple and inconspicuous but that it is needed to supply a touch of individuality since many of the garments are cut along the same line.

#### METHOD OF PROCEDURE

Information concerning preferences of a selected group of mothers for the clothing of girls three to six years of age was obtained by interviews with 100 Home Demonstration Unit Clothing Leaders. This study represents a small piece of research and the

findings have not been treated statistically. Those interviewed were selected from among Home Demonstration Unit Clothing Leaders who had daughters in this age group and who could arrange their time for an interview. They are, however, mothers who are confronted with choices in children's clothing because they have daughters of this age group, and they have more than a passing interest in clothing because they are serving as clothing leaders within their own communities. The study was conducted in counties where the interviewer worked as a Clothing and Textiles Specialist of the Extension Service, in the northwest and southwest districts in Kansas.

A schedule was prepared to aid the interviewer in recording preferences of mothers for the clothing of girls and consisted of two parts designated as Part 1 and Part 2. Part 1, general information, and Part 2, a check sheet, were used to collect data on the preferences of mothers for the clothing needs of their daughters. Provision was made in Part 1 to include the following general information regarding the child and family: county, name, age, date of birth of the child, community, net farm income of family, age and sex of other children in the family, whether father was living, and adult relatives living with the family. Families were classified by net farm income into three groups. The basis for this division was taken from the 1946 Preliminary Report of the Farm Income and Living Costs for 190 Kansas Farm and Home Management Families prepared by Gunselman of the Department of Household Economics of Kansas State College. In the above

study the range of incomes was noted and an arbitrary division was made placing an equal number of families in the low, middle and high income category. Since this was the last study completed at the time the present investigation was planned and since the data are representative of the incomes of Kansas farm families, this division was used in classifying the income of respondents.

Part 2 of Form I was prepared as a check sheet listing manner of providing and preferences in clothing for design features, fabrics and color listed under the following headings: coats, rainwear, snowsuit, blouses, coveralls, dresses, jackets or toppers, jeans or levies, jumpers, overalls or bib-slacks, pinafores, polo or tee shirts, skirts, bathing suits, sunsuits, sweaters, gowns, pajamas, robe or housecoats, slippers, underwear, anklets, waterproof footwear, gloves, head coverings, handkerchiefs, mittens, muffs, purses, shoes, slippers and stockings. See Appendix for Form I, Part 1 and Part 2.

A preliminary test of this check sheet was made by interviewing a few mothers in Manhattan who had girls three to six years of age. Cooperating were wives of Extension staff members and mothers contacted by the Department of Child Welfare and Euthenics who had girls in nursery school. Changes were made in Form I following these interviews to aid the interviewer in recording data on preferences of mothers.

Mothers who were Home Demonstration Unit Leaders, were interviewed the day of the leader training meeting or at home. In County Agent or Home Demonstration Agent counties, the agents were asked to make arrangements with the selected mothers for the inter-

views. Two interviews were arranged by the agent for each leader training date. One mother came before the meeting and the other remained at the close of the meeting for the interview. Two days were spent by the Clothing Specialist in making interviews in homes. Six Home Demonstration Agents who had received special training on children's clothes cooperated in the study by interviewing two clothing leaders in their counties. Thirty-nine counties cooperated in the study. Distribution of interviews showing the number held in each county is shown in Plate I.

The findings were analyzed to determine the percentage distribution of families for each income group according to net income, size and make-up of the family, preferences for certain garments in the wardrobe, manner of providing items of clothing used, and preference for style features, fabric and color.

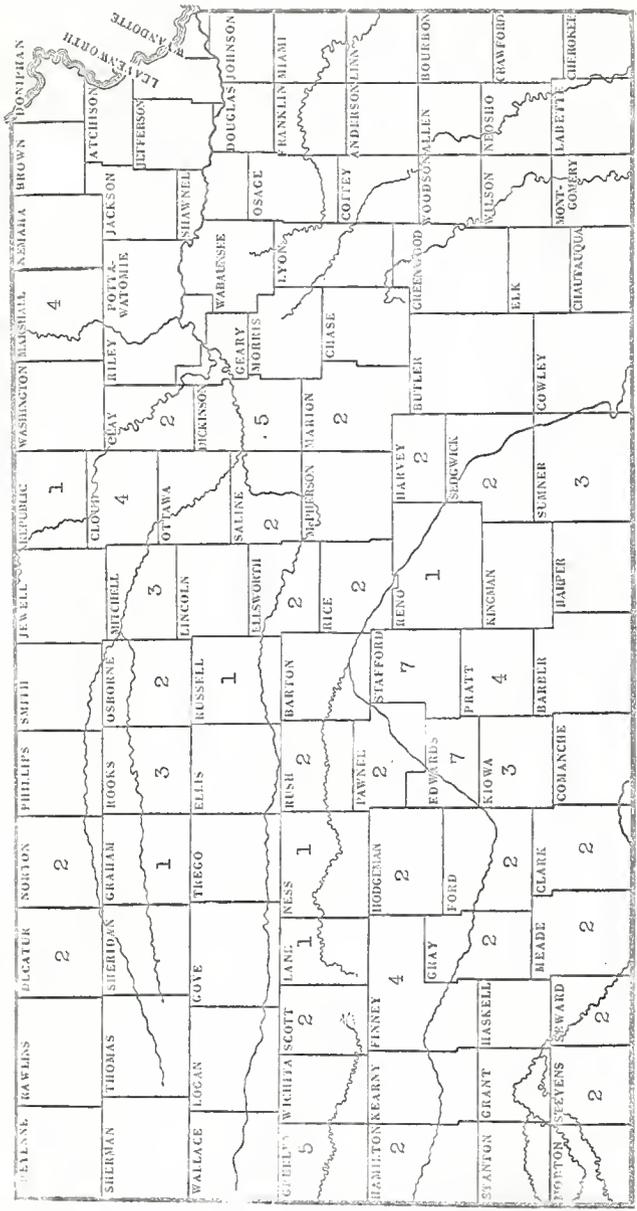
#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The income and the make-up of the family were thought of as important factors to be considered in relation to the preferences of the selected group of mothers for clothing of girls three to six years of age. The 100 families included in the study were divided according to income into three groups; namely, low, middle and high. The income range used for each group was the one taken from the 1946 Preliminary Report of the Farm Income and Family Living Costs for 190 Kansas Farm and Home Management Association families. Because these were the most recent figures available on Kansas farm incomes they were accepted as the basis for the divisions. Thirty-three families represented the low income

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

Distribution of interviews, showing number  
held in each county.

PLATE I



group, 49 the middle income group, and 18 the high income group. Distribution of the families according to net farm income is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of families according to income groups.

Income group : Net farm income : Number or percent		
Low	\$ 0- 3,939	33
Middle	3,939- 6,798	49
High	6,798-35,345	18

#### Make-up of Family

All of the families represented in the study consisted of a mother, father and one or more children. Two families in the middle income group included an adult relative. The family make-up with the exception of the two adult relatives, is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Number of families with one, two and three or more children within the three income groups.

	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
Families interviewed:	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
With only 1 child	16	49	8	17	3	17
With only 2 children	6	18	14	28	6	33
With 3 children or more	11	33	27	55	9	50
Total	33	100	49	100	18	100

### Preferences for Certain Garments in the Wardrobe

In checking mothers' preferences for some 32 items of clothing that might be found in a girl's wardrobe, it was learned that only four items of clothing were used by all the mothers interviewed. These were dresses, underwear, anklets, and shoes. For other items the percentages vary according to items and income groups. Raincoats or capes, nightgowns, jeans, gloves, muffs and stockings are items for which 26 per cent or less expressed a preference. Table 3 shows the extent to which mothers in each group expressed a preference for certain garments in the wardrobe. The percentages listed are based on the total number of mothers interviewed in each income group.

In a study of preferences for items of clothing within the girl's wardrobe it was thought that the manner of providing these might have a bearing on choice. To this end mothers were queried as to whether the items of clothing in their children's wardrobes were "hand-me-downs", home-made, made-over or ready-made. The total number of mothers who included the item in the child's wardrobe was used as 100 and the percentage distribution among the four categories was calculated on this basis.

Preferences of mothers for style features, material and color within the various items of apparel were also obtained. In some instances more than one choice was given. Because many items of clothing are worn the year around, style, material and color logically warranted more than one answer. In all of the following

tables which are concerned with preferences, again the total number of mothers who preferred the item in the child's wardrobe was used as 100 per cent and the percentage for each choice calculated on this basis. Therefore, the total percentages usually add to more than 100 because duplicate responses were not eliminated.

Table 3. Preferences according to income groups for certain garments and items in the wardrobe.

Garment preferences	Income group		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Outer garments			
Coat	88	94	100
Rainwear	12	16	22
Snowsuit	82	79	88
Inner garments			
Blouses	94	92	94
Coveralls	18	18	33
Dresses	100	100	100
Jacket or topper	52	49	50
Jeans or levis	24	22	21
Jumper	58	61	44
Overalls or bib-slacks	82	73	74
Pinafores	91	88	89
Polo or tee shirts	70	71	61
Skirts	85	73	83
Bathing suits	64	50	50
Sunsuits	70	61	83
Sweaters	88	65	100
Underwear and nightwear			
Gowns	18	18	21
Pajamas	85	96	83
Robe or housecoat	79	76	67
Slips	85	80	72
Underwear	100	100	100
Accessories			
Anklets	100	100	100
Stockings	6	10	-
Footwear, waterproof	97	86	84
Gloves	6	12	26
Mittens	91	80	83
Muff	9	12	16
Head covering	100	98	84
Handkerchief	48	61	73
Purses	55	76	67
Shoes	100	100	100
Slippers	82	86	83

Coats. It was learned from this study that coats for the girls' wardrobes were provided in four ways, namely, "hand-me-down", home-made, made-over and ready-made. Table 4 shows how coats were provided for girls three to six years of age within three income groups. In the low income group 52 per cent of the mothers provided coats for their girls' wardrobes by buying them ready-made, 31 per cent made coats, 10 per cent made over garments into coats, and 7 per cent were "hand-me-downs". The middle income group did not follow the same pattern. Fifty per cent of these mothers made coats, 47 per cent bought them, 4 per cent were provided by made-overs, and 2 per cent were "hand-me-downs."

Table 4. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing coats.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
"Hand-me-down"	2	7	1	2	2	11
Home-made	9	31	23	50	7	39
Made-over	3	10	2	4	-	-
Ready-made	15	52	22	47	12	67

The high income group followed still another pattern but partly agreed with the low income group in that ready-mades took care of 67 per cent, home-made 39 per cent, "hand-me-downs" 11 per cent and none reported making over garments into coats.

In analyzing the design features preferred, it was learned that more mothers in the low and middle income groups preferred princess style coats. Box styles ranked a close second and capes

were preferred by a small number. Fifty per cent of the high income group's preference for style was for box coats, 22 per cent for princess, with only 6 per cent for capes (Table 5).

Coats with set-in pockets were preferred by more mothers in the low and high income groups. In the middle income group set-in and patch pockets were desired by the same percentage of mothers. Mothers not expressing a preference either did not use coats or did not want pockets on coats. The low income group expressed fewer preferences than did the other two groups.

A set-in sleeve was the preferred style for coats. Sixty-two, 72 and 83 per cent of the mothers in the low, middle and high income groups designated this as their preference, whereas 7, 9 and 6 per cent mentioned raglan style.

Elastic at the waistline was preferred over a belted waistline. Less than 30 per cent of mothers in any one income group expressed a preference for waist styling.

The majority of mothers did not care for a design in coat material. The largest percentage expressing a preference for fabric design was shown in the high income group by 22 per cent voicing their preference for plaid and 11 per cent for check. The respondents preferred wool material for coats. Fiber preferences of lesser importance will be found in Table 5.

In analyzing the replies concerning the name of the material preferred it was learned that many did not express a preference. They said they did not know what the material was called and only mentioned the fiber. Of the preferences given by mothers, flannel was the only material named by all income groups but even here the

Table 5. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in coats.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Cape	10	11	6
Coat - box	34	30	50
- princess	38	43	22
Pocket - patch	10	24	28
- set-in	21	24	39
Sleeve - raglan	7	9	6
set-in	62	72	83
Waist - belted	3	4	17
- elastic	21	13	28
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - check	10	4	11
- plaid	3	9	22
Fiber - cotton	17	2	-
- rayon	7	4	-
- wool	69	80	67
- wool and rayon	3	2	17
Material - corduroy	3	4	-
- flannel	10	11	17
- fleece	7	2	-
- gabardine	7	9	-
- serge	-	2	6
- suede cloth	3	2	-
- tweed	7	-	17
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - pastel	10	7	17
Name - blue	7	28	17
- brown	10	4	6
- green	-	13	17
- "melon"	-	2	6
- navy	3	2	11
- pink	10	2	6
- red	10	9	17
- rose	10	7	-
- tan	-	4	-
- white	3	9	6
- yellow	3	4	-

percentage was 17 or less for each group. Further details concerning choice will be found in Table 5.

When asked the preference for color some gave only a description without naming a color. In analyzing the choices, a preference for "pastel" was mentioned by a small percentage of each group. Blue, brown, navy, pink, red and white were colors preferred by all income groups. But one mother expressed a preference for each of the following: gold, grey, dubonnet, black and white, blue and white or "bright". These choices were not included in the Table 5. It was taken for granted that the names or description of colors varied according to the child's personal coloring; even so, it was interesting to note that the colors, blue, red and green in the order named have the highest number of preferences given. The percentage preference of each color is given in Table 5.

Rainwear. It was apparent from this study that few mothers included rainwear in their children's wardrobes (Table 3). Rainwear was provided in three ways, namely, "hand-me-down", home-made, and ready-made. The low income group used no "hand-me-downs", and the high income group used neither "hand-me-downs" or home-made articles. In the low income group, 25 per cent of the rainwear was home-made and 75 per cent was bought ready-made. Twenty-five per cent of the children in the middle income group were wearing "hand-me-down" raincoats, 38 per cent home-made, and 62 per cent ready-made. All, or 100 per cent, of the mothers in the high income group who used raincoats for their children bought them ready-made. Table 6 shows the manner of providing rainwear in children's wardrobes.

Table 6. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing rainwear.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
"Hand-me-downs"	-	-	2	25	-	-
Home-made	1	25	3	38	-	-
Ready-made	3	75	5	62	4	100

Seventy-five per cent of the mothers in the low income group preferred a raincoat and 50 per cent a cape. In the middle and high income groups the majority preferred capes (Table 7).

Table 7. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in rainwear.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Design features:			
Cape	50	88	50
Coat	75	50	25
Hood, attached	-	88	50
Hood, separate	-	50	25
Fabric:			
Fiber, cotton	75	50	25
Film, plastic	25	75	75
Finish, waterproof	25	75	75
Finish, water repellent	75	50	25
Material, film (plastic)	25	75	75
Material, gabardine	25	12	50
Material, tweed	25	38	-
Color:			
Description - bright	100	38	25
- clear	-	-	50
- dark	25	12	-
Name - blue	-	38	-
- red	-	25	-

Eighty-eight per cent of the middle income group's preference was for capes and 50 per cent for coats. In the high income group, 50 per cent preferred capes and 25 per cent coats. The remainder expressed no preference. Mothers in the low income group did not state a preference as to whether hoods be attached or separate. In the middle and high income groups more mothers preferred to have the hood attached. Cotton was the fiber preference for rainwear of the low income group, whereas plastic film was the preference over cotton for the middle and high income groups. More than one choice was given by some respondents (Table 7).

Plastic films, gabardines and tweeds were the names of materials preferred for rainwear. The percentage of preference in the low income group was 25 each for plastic film, gabardine and tweed. In the middle income group the percentage of preference was 75 for plastic film, 38 for tweed and 12 for gabardine. In the high income group plastic film was the preference in 75 per cent of the instances and gabardine in 50 per cent.

The words "bright", "clear" and "dark" were used by some mothers to express their preference for color. Red and blue were color preferences for the middle income group; 38 per cent desired blue and 25 per cent red. The colors brown and white mentioned by one mother each and were not included in the table. Further details of choice will be found in Table 7.

Snowsuits. The largest percentage of mothers bought snowsuits ready-made. Next in rank were those made at home. Made-overs ranked third in the middle and in the low income group made-overs and "hand-me-downs" were the same. The high income group used "hand-me-downs" were the same. The high income group used "hand-me-downs" but did not use made-overs. The ranking of each income group according to the manner of providing snowsuits will be found in Table 8.

Table 8. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing snowsuits.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
"Hand-me-down"	1	4	2	5	1	6
Home-made	2	7	12	31	3	18
Made-over	1	4	5	13	-	-
Ready-made	24	88	23	59	14	87

Mothers were asked to give their preferences for features of ankle styling in snowsuits. The percentage rank according to income group for knitted anklets were, low, 41; middle, 33; and high, 29. The percentage rank according to income groups for zippers were: low, 28; middle, 46; and high, 55. Table 9 presents further details.

Princess style coats were preferred over box style by the mothers in all income groups.

Table 9. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and colors for snowsuits.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Ankle - knitted	41	33	29
- zipper	28	46	55
Coat - box	37	25	31
- princess	48	46	55
Collar - roll	26	15	18
- stand	15	-	25
Closing - button front	53	36	29
- zipper front	22	44	25
Hood - attached	7	10	18
- separate	18	69	43
Leggings - jodphur	26	23	25
- ski	37	28	43
Pockets - patch	22	31	18
- set-in	26	15	36
Sleeve - raglan	7	15	12
- set-in	63	54	69
Style - one-piece	7	23	12
- two-piece	93	61	87
Suspenders - adjustable	70	56	69
Waistline - elastic in	48	44	69
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - check	7	-	-
Fiber - cotton	18	-	-
- rayon	-	3	6
- wool	70	69	55
- wool and cotton	-	5	6
Finish - waterproof	4	8	-
- water-repellent	18	5	-
- wind-proof	4	5	6
Material - corduroy	4	3	-
- flannel	4	3	-
- "fleece"	11	8	-
- fur cloth	4	-	6
- gabardine	7	5	6
- melton	7	-	-
- suede cloth	4	3	-
- tweed	4	5	-
- velveteen	4	-	6
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - bright	2	3	-
Name - aqua	7	3	6
- blue	18	23	25
- blue, navy	4	5	-
- blue, teal	11	-	-
- brown	4	10	-
- green	7	8	6
- grey and contrast	-	8	6
- pink	-	10	-
- red	22	28	31
- rose	11	-	-
- tan	-	10	6
- wine	7	5	18

Collar styling was described as either roll or stand. The preference for roll collars was greatest within the low and middle income groups, whereas the stand collar was designated by more respondents in the high income group.

Front closings using buttons were preferred over zippers by low and high income groups. The middle income group expressed a preference for zippers over buttons. Most mothers preferred to have the hood separate from the snowsuit. Table 9 presents further details.

Ski leggings ranked first in the preferences of all income groups and the jodphur style was next. In comparing legging style in each income group, the preference ranking was as follows: low income, ski 37 per cent, jodphur 26 per cent; middle income, ski 28 per cent, jodphur 23 per cent; and high income, ski 43 per cent, and jodphur 25 per cent.

Not all mothers stated a preference for pockets. The two styles of pockets mentioned were set-in, and patch. Set-in pockets was the preference of 26 per cent of the mothers in the low income group and 36 per cent in the high income group. Set-in pockets ranked second in the middle income group. Patch pockets were the preference in the low income group of 22 per cent, in the middle income group of 31 per cent, and in the high income group of 18 per cent.

A set-in sleeve was by far the preferred style for sleeves in coats. A small percentage mentioned raglan sleeves (Table 9).

The largest number of mothers expressed a preference for a two-piece snowsuit. The preferences in low, middle, and high income groups expressed as a percentage, were, respectively, 93, 61 and 87. Seven per cent of the low income group; 23 per cent of the middle income group; and 12 per cent of the high income group preferred one-piece snowsuits.

A two-piece snowsuit probably was preferred since it enabled the growing child to use the garment longer than a one-piece suit. Snowsuits are a major clothing expenditure. This, no doubt, accounts for the large percentage of the low income group who select a two-piece suit. Another factor which may have influenced the choice of some mothers was that the coat could be worn without the leggings, thereby serving a dual purpose. A two-piece snowsuit with adjustable suspenders was a preference of 70 to 80 per cent of the mothers. The desire for adjustable suspenders, ranked according to income group, were low, 70 per cent; middle, 56 per cent; and high, 69 per cent.

Elastic at the waistline<sup>s</sup> was a preference of some of the mothers. This referred to the jacket waistline of a two-piece suit, or the waistline of a one-piece suit. A liking for this feature, expressed as a percentage for each income group was low, 46; middle, 44; and high, 69. A belt at the waistline was a preference of only one mother.

Mothers preferred plain materials without design for snowsuits as is shown in Table 9. It was learned that wool materials were preferred for snowsuits. Other fibers mentioned by a few

mothers were cotton, rayon and a blend of wool and cotton. Only in the low income group was cotton mentioned as a possible fiber from which material for snowsuits might be made.

A few mothers expressed a preference for a special finish on the fabric chosen for snowsuits. Those mentioned were waterproof, water-repellent, and wind-proof. Mothers in the low and middle income groups mentioned all of these as a desirable finish, whereas, wind-proof was the only finish mentioned by those in the high income group. Percentages ranked according to groups for finishes were: low income group, water-repellent, 18, wind-proof, 4 and waterproof, 4; middle income group, waterproof, 8, water-repellent, 5, and wind-proof, 5; high income group, 6 (Table 9).

When mothers attempted to state their preference for materials by name, they experienced difficulty. Not any really significant percentages were obtained. Not more than 11 per cent expressed a preference for any one named fabric. Preferences for materials are given in Table 9.

In analyzing replies to color preference, it was learned that red and blue were named by the largest number of respondents. Next in importance for the three income groups were wine, green and aqua. Color preferences of lesser importance to the groups of respondents will be found in Table 9.

Two per cent of the mothers in the low income group and 3 per cent of the mothers in the middle income group described their preference as "bright". One mother said that she wanted a dark color, but this answer was not included in the table.

Blouses. Blouses made at home were the most popular with all income groups. The percentage rank for the low, middle and high groups were, respectively, 71, 89 and 53. Almost one-half as many mothers in the low income group bought blouses as made them. In the high income group eight out of nine mothers bought blouses. Expressed as a percentage, this was 47 for ready-made blouses and 53 for home-made. "Hand-me-downs" were used by 29 per cent of the mothers in the high income group, and were not of importance in the others. Few blouses were received as gifts and seldom was there a made-over (Table 10).

Table 10. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing blouses.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	-	-	4	9	-	-
"Hand-me-down"	-	-	1	2	4	24
Home-made	22	71	39	89	9	53
Made-over	-	-	1	2	1	6
Ready-made	9	29	6	14	8	47

Table 11 shows that respondents rated front closings as preferable over back closings in blouses. Openings the entire length were of importance to 45 per cent of the low and middle income groups, and 53 per cent of the high income group. Back closings were mentioned by 26 per cent of the low, 34 per cent of the middle, and 29 per cent of the high income groups. Buttons were the fastening most often mentioned.

Table 11. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in blouses.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Design features:			
Closing - back	26	34	29
- entire length	45	45	53
- front	84	77	82
- short length	-	2	6
Fastening - buttons	71	59	53
- tie	13	5	-
Fabric:			
Design - dotted	-	7	-
Fiber - cotton	90	84	100
- rayon	26	11	12
Material - broadcloth	65	36	53
- corded dimity	6	25	-
- dotted swiss	13	9	6
- flat crepe	3	2	-
- lawn	6	2	-
- muslin	-	9	6
- nainsook	3	-	6
- organdy	-	5	-
- pique	3	5	6
- print	-	5	-
- shantung	-	5	-
Color:			
Description - pastel	3	-	12
Name - pink	10	2	-
- white	84	98	100

Cotton was rated over rayon as the fiber wanted for blouses. Rayon was mentioned by more mothers in the low income group than either of the other two. Table 11 shows that broadcloth was cited by more respondents than any of the other fabrics mentioned. Percentage rank of each income group for broadcloth was low, 65; middle, 36; and high, 53. Other materials mentioned were corded dimity, dotted swiss, lawn, muslin, nainsook, organdy, pique and shantung.

Table 11 shows that mothers want white blouses for their children. Eighty-four per cent of the low, 98 per cent of the middle and 100 per cent of the high income group gave white as their choice. Pink and "pastel" were also mentioned by a very small percentage. Probably more respondents named white as their preference since it will go with more items of the wardrobe than a color. Blouses serve many purposes, being worn with skirts, jumpers, slacks, pinafores and under sweaters.

Coveralls. Coveralls were not too important in the child's wardrobe, according to the mothers interviewed. Eighteen per cent of the low and middle income groups, and 33 per cent of the high income group used coveralls as shown in Table 3. The popularity of coveralls for girls was probably limited because it was a one-piece garment. This type of garment does not allow for rapid growth and is not usable as long as a two-piece garment. Most garments were purchased ready-to-wear (Table 12).

Table 12. Number and percentage of responses within three income groups listing manner of providing coveralls.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	4	67	2	22	1	17
Home-made	2	33	2	22	2	33
Ready-made	4	67	7	78	4	67

Table 13 gives the design features that were desired in coveralls. Little relationship seems to exist between choices given within the three income groups. Buttons were cited by a higher percentage of the low income group and the preference of the middle and high income groups was greater for dot snappers.

Table 13. Preferences within the three income groups for design features and fabric in coveralls.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	high
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Belt, set-in	33	22	17
Closing - button	67	22	17
- dot snapper	33	67	50
Collar	50	44	83
Collarless	-	33	-
Cuff - hem	83	100	50
Drop seat - button	67	56	50
- other	17	33	17
Pockets - one	17	-	17
- two	17	67	50
- patch	33	56	17
Seams - flat fell	50	67	50
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Fiber - cotton	100	100	100
Material - chambray	-	22	33
- denim	83	44	67
- seersucker	17	33	-
- twill	-	11	33
<b>Color:</b>			
Name - blue	67	33	50
- blue and white	-	22	17

Children in all income groups wore coveralls styled with collars. Only in the middle income group was there a definite favoring of those styled without. See Table 13 for preferences.

For leg finish, hems were preferred by 83 per cent of the low income group, by 100 per cent of the middle and by 50 per

cent of the high income group. Sixty-seven per cent of the low income group wanted the drop seat to button, as did 56 per cent of the middle income group and 50 per cent of the high income group.

Mothers stated their preference for number and style of pockets. Only 17 per cent of the mothers in the low income group cared whether pockets were on coveralls, whereas 67 per cent of the mothers in both the middle and high income groups definitely said one, or two pockets were an important feature. Further details concerning choice are given in Table 13.

Flat fell or a variation of this seam is used on most ready-made garments. Yet only one-half of the mothers mentioned this seam as a detail important in construction. Seams that do not ravel either were taken for granted or were not desired.

As might be expected cotton was the fiber preferred. Denim was the only fabric mentioned by all income groups. It was a preference of 83 of the low, 44 per cent of the middle and 67 per cent of the high income group. Seersucker was included by only the low and middle income groups, whereas chambray and twill material were wanted by the middle and high income groups (Table 13).

Blue was mentioned as the preferred color by two-thirds of the mothers in the low income group, one-third in the middle and one-half in the high income groups. A combination of blue and white was preferred by 22 per cent in the middle income group, and 17 per cent in the high income group. Tan, rust, rose and red were mentioned by but one woman each and are not included in

Table 13. Today, in ready-mades, a variety of colors was available. The few buying coveralls apparently were making their selections from colors often associated with this type of garment. Local demand for colors may not be great enough to warrant the local merchant stocking several colors. Therefore, statements of preference were probably governed somewhat by availability.

Dresses. Dresses were one of the four garments of clothing used by all the mothers in their children's wardrobe (Table 3). They were provided in five ways, which included gifts, "hand-me-downs", home-made, made-over and ready-made. The largest percentage of the dresses were made at home. Eighty-two per cent of the low income group, 88 per cent of the middle income group and 78 per cent of the high income group made their girls' dresses. Percentages provided from ready-to-wear according to income groups were low, 2; middle, 16; and high, 50. Dresses are an item of clothing mothers made for their children. This may be due to several reasons. If the mother had developed any skill in sewing, they were cheaper and could be made to fit better. Quality material could be had for considerably less than what ready-to-wear costs. One-half of the mothers in the high income group bought some of their dresses. This might be expected when incomes were high, and mothers preferred to spend their time some other way. Smaller percentages of garments were provided by "hand-me-downs" and gifts. Very few mothers made over clothing into their girls' dresses (Table 14).

Table 14. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing dresses.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	2	6	2	4	1	6
"Hand-me-down"	2	6	2	4	2	11
Home-made	27	82	43	88	14	78
Made-over	1	3	2	4	-	-
Ready-made	7	21	8	16	9	50

More mothers expressed a preference for back closing than they did for front closing of dresses. The largest percentage desired the opening to begin at the neck and extend to below the waist. Percentage rank according to income group for back closing was low, 48; middle, 61; and high, 72. Fifty-two per cent of the mothers in the low income group preferred front openings, in the middle income group, 45 per cent and in the high income group, 44 per cent. Rank, according to income group, for closing from neck to below waistline expressed in percentage was low, 48; middle, 65; and high, 55. Less than 20 per cent of mothers in each income group expressed a preference for closing from neck to waist. More mothers in the middle and high income groups preferred closings the entire length than did those in the low income group (Table 15).

Mothers apparently were not considering needs of the child for developing initiative and self-reliance in dress when they stated a preference for back openings. An opening such as this,

either to the waistline, or just below, made it difficult for the child to put the dress on and take it off. It would seem impossible for the child to fasten or unfasten the garment without adult help.

Flat collars were preferred by only a few mothers in the low and middle income groups but by 22 per cent of the mothers in the high income group. Standing collars were mentioned by a few respondents (Table 15).

Buttons were preferred for fastenings in all income groups. Percentages according to income groups were low, 79; middle, 92; and high, 72. Dot snappers were preferred by one-third of the mothers in the low income group. Other fastenings mentioned by mothers included snaps and zippers. Further details of choice will be found in Table 15. Respondents stated the width in inches of the hem they preferred. More mentioned three inches than any of the other widths which varied from one and a half to six inches (Table 15). All mothers do not lengthen dresses. When the respondents stated a hem width, some mentioned they wanted a hem deep enough so that the garment could be lengthened. Circular skirts this past year have been used on many dresses but even so one and one-half inches was the smallest hem width mentioned. Bound neckline was preferred over ones which were faced. Only a very few desired a neckline with a simulated collar.

Not all mothers felt pockets were necessary on girls' dresses. Many times they were mentioned as a trim or were used only on better dresses. Flat patch, full, and set-in pockets

Table 15. Preferences within the three income groups for design features and fabrics in dresses.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Design features:			
Closing - back	48	61	72
- entire length	9	29	22
- front	52	45	44
- neck to below waist	58	57	55
- neck to waist	15	18	17
Collar - flat	6	8	22
- Peter Pan	58	65	67
- stand	-	2	6
Fastenings - buttons	79	92	72
- dot snappers	33	18	-
- snaps	3	12	11
- zipper	9	14	11
Hem - 1½ inches	3	2	-
- 2 " "	12	16	6
- 2½ " "	9	14	11
- 3 " "	36	41	67
- 3½ " "	-	10	-
- 4 " "	12	8	22
- 5 " "	-	6	-
- 6 " "	-	4	-
Neck - bound	52	45	50
- faced	42	47	39
- simulated	-	6	6
Pocket - flat patch	45	47	50
- full	18	27	22
- set-in	3	4	17
Pashes - attached	60	53	83
- narrow	21	24	11
- separate	6	-	-
- wide	52	29	72
Sleeves- cap	30	18	22
- puff, extreme	18	35	33
- puff, slight	55	55	61
Trim - applique	3	12	17
- bias binding	24	33	44
- bird	6	4	-
- braid	9	10	17
- embroidery	9	35	28
- eyelet	58	55	55
- flat edging	6	6	22
- flower	-	16	6
- geometric	-	4	17
- lace	18	33	44
- rick-rack	64	52	61
- ruffle	33	53	50
- self-piping	-	20	28
- smocking	-	10	17

Table 15 (cont.)

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Fabric:			
Design - check	21	24	6
- dot	9	4	6
- flower	21	6	6
- geometric	3	-	6
- narrow wale	-	4	-
- plaid	21	10	28
- printed	9	8	11
- small	9	49	50
- stripe	21	10	6
Fiber - cotton	94	100	100
- rayon	12	37	17
- spun rayon	6	2	-
- wool	-	2	6
Finish - color fast	15	8	11
- fade proof	3	2	-
- fast color	-	4	6
- permanent	9	10	11
- pre-shrunk	36	16	33
- sanforized	12	20	6
- sun fast	6	-	-
- washable	6	2	-
Material - batiste	3	10	-
- broadcloth	6	10	-
- challis	-	4	-
- chambray	12	16	33
- chintz	-	-	6
- corduroy	3	6	6
- crepe	-	4	-
- dimity	3	8	11
- dotted swiss	3	12	11
- flaxon	-	2	-
- gabardine	3	4	-
- gingham	24	19	22
- organdy	3	2	-
- percale	-	-	6
- pique	-	4	11
- poplin	-	2	6
- print	40	82	50
- seersucker	-	6	-
- shantung	3	4	-
- sharkskin	-	6	6
- spun rayon	-	8	6
- taffeta	6	2	-
- voile	9	6	-

Table 15 (cont.)

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Color:			
Description - bright	-	10	6
- dark	6	2	-
- light	3	6	-
- pastel	3	18	-
Name - blue	33	39	22
- green	12	16	17
- gold	3	2	-
- pink	15	29	28
- red	24	27	39
- white	3	2	-
- yellow	21	29	39

were mentioned. One-half of the mothers in each income group preferred flat patch pockets (Table 15). Not all mothers expressed a preference for sashes. Of those who did, sashes attached to the dress were desired and the majority preferred wide sashes. Further details of choice will be found in Table 15.

Sleeve styles mentioned were cap, slight puff and extreme puff. A slight puff sleeve was a preference of more than 50 per cent of the women in each income group. Cap sleeves were the style preferred over the extreme puff in the low income group. In the middle and high income groups, more mothers preferred an extreme puff sleeve than cap sleeves. Ready-to-wear garments and pattern companies feature many more garments with puff style of sleeves than a cap style. The cap style of sleeve has been a favorite in adult clothes. Promotion of mothers' and daughters' clothes has done little to bring the cap sleeve into the fashion picture for children.

Fourteen trims were mentioned for girls' dresses. Those accounting for 50 per cent or more for each income group were rick-rack and eyelet trims. Smaller towns in the western part of the state could not stock all of the trims mentioned; therefore selection and preference may have been influenced by availability.

In Table 15 under fabric were listed mothers' preferences for designs in material. Checks, plaids, small designs and stripes were mentioned by more mothers in each income group. Designs of lesser importance are given in the table. Preferences for finishes were mentioned by some respondents. Less than 75 per cent of the mothers considered it important enough to state their preference. On today's market there are few ready-to-wear garments and yard goods labeled. Mothers probably bought what they could obtain and hoped for good results. A preshrunk or sanforized finish was the one most desired by the largest number of respondents. The low income group was most concerned with finishes which were color fast, fade proof and sun fast. This seems to indicate they desire to get the most for their money. Further details concerning the choice of finishes will be found in Table 15 which likewise gives color preferences of importance to the group of respondents. A large percentage of mothers named blue, green, pink, red and yellow as their preference. Other colors mentioned by one respondent each were rose, aqua, brown and lavender. These were not included in the table.

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did not influence the selection of material for children's dresses. Print was desired by 70 per cent of the consumers for everyday dresses, whereas 26 per cent preferred gingham. Materials preferred for party dresses were crepe, taffeta, organdy and dimity.

Jackets or Toppers. Table 3 shows that only one-half of the mothers included this item of wearing apparel in children's wardrobes. More than 50 per cent of the respondents in the low and middle income groups made jackets or toppers, whereas 78 per cent of the high income group bought theirs ready-made. Since wraps are an expensive item to buy ready-made, probably for economy, those in the low and middle income groups made these garments at home, whereas the high income group thought less of the cash outlay needed to purchase these garments ready-to-wear. Tailoring of garments has been of interest to a limited number of mothers in each county. Some mothers sew for their children because they believe children's garments need less fitting than their own. Wraps such as these are used year round and are made from many materials. Made-overs were not of importance but "hand-me-downs" were being worn by a few children in each income group (see Table 16 for details).

Table 16. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing jackets or toppers.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
"Hand-me-downs"	1	6	4	17	2	22
Home-made	10	59	13	54	3	33
Made-over	2	12	2	8	-	-
Ready-made	6	35	5	21	7	78

Table 17 shows the design features which mothers considered important. The figures indicate that jackets or toppers must have a collar. Buttons for fastening the garment were most often preferred. Other fastenings mentioned included dot snappers and zippers, but not more than 11 per cent indicated a preference for these. Income in this case probably has little relationship to preference in any except the low income group where no mention was made of zippers.

Pockets were not considered very important for this wrap. Only about one-half of the mothers expressed a preference for patch or set-in pockets. Of the two styles, patch pockets were preferred by more. The percentage preference within each income group was low, 35; middle, 38; and high, 44 (see Table 17 for detailed choices).

Again it may be noted that most mothers preferred to have children's wraps of plain material without design. Of design mentioned, plaids were named by a greater number than were checks. Table 17 shows 18 per cent of the low, 21 per cent of the middle and 22 per cent of the high income group preferred plaid. For further details on design see Table 17.

Corduroy was named by 71 per cent of the low, and by 33 per cent of the middle and high income groups. Felt and flannel were desired by a small percentage in the low and middle income groups. A wide variety of fabrics was mentioned in each case by only one mother so was not included in Table 17. These fabrics were caracul, covert, chambray, denim, gabardine, serge, seersucker and strutter cloth.

Table 17. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in jackets or toppers.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Collar	82	88	78
Collarless	6	12	11
Fastening - button	76	88	100
- dot snapper	6	4	11
- zipper	-	8	11
Pocket - patch	35	38	44
- set-in	6	8	11
- one	-	4	11
- two	6	12	33
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - check	6	4	-
- plaid	18	21	22
Material - corduroy	71	53	33
- felt	6	4	-
- flannel	6	17	-
<b>Color:</b>			
Name - blue	30	21	11
- black and red	6	4	-
- brown	12	8	-
- gray	6	4	-
- green	-	8	-
- navy	6	4	-
- red	53	42	33
- tan	6	8	-
- wine	12	8	-
- yellow	-	8	-

Red and blue were colors named by persons in all income groups. Red was preferred by 53 per cent of the low, 42 per cent of the middle and 33 per cent of the high income groups. Thirty per cent of the low, 21 per cent of the middle and 11 per cent of the high income groups gave red as their preference. For further choice of color, see Table 17.

Jeans. Jeans were worn by children in less than one-fourth of each income group. Mothers had little to say about their

preference for this garment. They were bought ready-made and suspenders were used to keep the garment on with one exception where a belt was used. Respondents often made the statement that they considered jeans fads. For further details see Table 18.

Table 18. Manner of providing and preferences within the three income groups for style features in jeans.

Manner of providing and Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Ready-made	100	100	100
Suspenders	88	100	100
Belt	12	-	-

Jumpers. Jumpers were used by 58 per cent of the low, 61 per cent of the middle and 44 per cent of the high income groups as shown in Table 3. More were made at home than were provided in other ways. As many as 74 per cent of the low income group, 80 per cent of the middle income group and 50 per cent of the high income group made jumpers, whereas 26 per cent of the low income group, 17 per cent of the middle and 38 per cent of the high income group selected from ready-to-wear. Table 19 gives further details regarding jumpers received as gifts, those worn as "hand-me-downs" and made-over garments.

Table 19. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing jumpers.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	2	11	-	-	-	-
"Hand-me-down"	2	11	1	3	1	12
Home-made	14	74	24	80	4	50
Made-over	-	-	3	10	-	-
Ready-made	5	26	5	17	3	38

The style of skirts mentioned for jumpers were circular, gathered, gore, pleated and princess. Table 20 gives the preferences of respondents for each of these styles. The princess style of skirt was preferred by the largest percentage of each income group. Perhaps this choice could be accounted for because of the less distinctly defined waistline which made the garment wearable for a longer time. Such garments would not have the outgrown look as do some of the short waisted styles shown for children of this age group. This jumper often has lines that are fairly simple, the skirts have moderate flare, and they would be easily made and cared for. Straps and suspenders were two types of styling mentioned for the tops of jumpers. More mothers favored straps with built-up top. Suspenders coming from a bib front, crossing and fastening in the back or vice versa also allow for growth in height. Further details will be found in Table 20.

Table 20. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in jumpers.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Skirt - circular	-	3	12
- gathered	11	10	-
- gore	5	3	12
- pleated	32	33	12
- princess	58	37	62
Straps	37	53	38
Suspenders	5	20	25
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - flower	5	10	-
- narrow-wale	-	7	-
- plaid	11	17	12
Fiber - cotton	53	43	38
- wool	37	47	38
- rayon	16	23	-
Material - broadcloth	-	7	-
- corduroy	37	20	25
- flannel	16	13	12
- gabardine	5	13	12
- linen	5	3	-
- print	5	13	-
- taffeta	11	3	-
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - dark	11	7	12
- pastel	-	7	-
Name - blue	11	20	25
- brown	5	7	-
- navy blue	16	3	-
- pink	11	3	-
- red	26	33	38
- rose	5	3	-
- white	5	3	-

Only a small percentage desired designs in fabric. Mentioned were "flowered", "narrow-wale" and plaid. Here again plain colored fabrics without design took the lead.

Table 20 shows that cotton and wool were easily the leading fiber preference and that rayon was considered important in only

the low and middle income groups. Cotton was a preference of 53 per cent of those in the low income group, 43 per cent in the middle and 38 per cent in the high. Wool was a preference of but 37 per cent of the low and 47 per cent of the middle income group. Thirty-eight per cent of the high income group liked equally well cotton and wool. Perhaps the preference for cotton over wool in the low income group might be credited to ease of care and to the cost of up-keep.

The preference for corduroy was greater in all income groups than it was for any of the other materials named. Flannel and gabardine were the two chief competing materials for second place. Others mentioned by the first two income groups were linen, print and taffeta. But one mother mentioned each of the following: satin, chintz, dimity, jersey and gingham. Details of the choices for each income group will be found in Table 20.

Dark colors were preferred over pastels, and red and blue were mentioned by the highest percentage of respondents in each income group. In fact, they were the only choices shown by the high income group. Red was preferred by 26 per cent of the low, 33 per cent of the middle and 38 per cent of the high income groups. Blue ranked 11 per cent in the low, 20 per cent in the middle and 25 per cent of the high. Not all mothers named a color which might mean they did not consider color important for this garment. The low and middle income groups expressed color preference much more freely and mentioned brown, navy blue, pink, rose and white. Colors of lesser importance mentioned by only one respondent in any of the groups were not included in Table 20. They were wine, light blue, yellow, tan and black.

Table 21. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing bib slacks and overalls.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	: Low		: Middle		: High	
	No. :	Per cent:	No. :	Per cent:	No. :	Per cent
"Hand-me-down"	1	4	2	6	1	7
Home-made	11	41	11	30	4	29
Made-over	3	11	3	8	1	7
Ready-made	15	56	26	72	11	79

Bib Slacks and Overalls. Table 3 shows that overalls and bib slacks were used by 82 per cent of the mothers in the low income group, 73 per cent in the middle income group and 74 per cent in the high income group. Table 21 shows that more mothers bought these garments than made them. The percentage of home-made garments was greater in the low income group than in the other two. The percentage of the low income group who bought ready-mades was 56, and who made these garments was 41. Less than one-half of the mothers in the middle and high income groups made overalls and bib slacks. Apparently, as more money was available the garment made depends upon the mother's choice. It is perhaps the more feminine garments such as dresses as shown in Table 21 that they prefer to do. Some made-overs and "hand-me-downs" were also used.

More mothers expressed a greater preference for double bibs than for matching bibs, bibs of self material and single bibs. Double bibs were a preference by 48 per cent of the low income group, 58 per cent of the middle income group, and 64 per cent of the high income group.

Sixty-three per cent of the low income group, 67 per cent of the middle income group and 64 per cent of the high income group said they preferred buttons for fastenings. Next in importance were dot snappers. Buckle fastenings for the straps were mentioned in each income group by 17 per cent or less. Buttonholes and buttons or dot snappers were evidently preferred for this age group because these fastenings are ones which the children probably are more able to handle.

Full length legs in bib slacks and overalls were preferred over short cut garments. They were the preference of 85 per cent of the respondents in the low income group, 97 per cent in the middle income group and 100 per cent of the high income group. The leg finish wanted was a hem. A cuff was mentioned by 7 per cent or less. Some mothers adjusted trouser length by turning them up at the bottom, but no doubt for safety and ease in washing hems were preferred.

Pockets did not seem to be so important to the mothers for overalls and slacks. This feature was mentioned by 22 per cent of the low income group, 38 per cent of the middle and by 36 per cent of the high income group.

A flat fell seam must either have been taken for granted or accepted as the only seam for this garment because not all of the mothers mentioned it as an important finish. The percentage preference for this finish within each income group was low, 67; middle, 56; and high, 43.

Fifty-nine per cent of the low income group, 64 per cent of the middle and 71 per cent of the high income group wanted adjust-

able suspenders. Some of the respondents replied that they wanted suspenders stitched where they cross in the back. Full details of all design features preferred will be found in Table 22.

Narrow wale corduroy, print and stripe were designs mentioned for fabrics of overalls or bib slacks. In spite of the fact that so many of the ready-made garments are without design it was interesting to note that a small percentage of children were wearing design in fabrics. A narrow wale was mentioned by 56 per cent of those interviewed in the low and middle groups, and by 43 per cent of those in the high income group. Mothers have a definite preference for cotton; it was mentioned by 85, 89, and 79 per cent of the low, middle and high income group, respectively. Rayon and wool were mentioned by a few. Besides corduroy and denim, names of other materials mentioned were chambray, covert, feed sacks, denim, gabardine, poplin, print, seersucker, strutter cloth and twill. Further details will be found in Table 22.

Blue in some shade was first choice in color for this garment. Respondents next mentioned red, brown, green and rose in the order named. Table 22 gives these and other colors named by mothers with the percentage preference for each. Other colors mentioned by but one person and not included in the table were aqua, light blue, white and yellow.

More mothers probably named blue as a color preference since many overalls come in this color. Perhaps other colors mentioned were for bib slacks. Color has definitely entered children's wardrobes but standby materials and availability, no doubt, influenced mothers' answers.

Table 22. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in bib slacks and overalls.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Bib - double	48	58	64
- matching	4	8	29
- self material	18	8	-
- single	7	6	-
Fastening - dot snappers	30	22	36
- buckle	15	17	14
- button	63	67	64
Legs - full length	89	89	100
- short	-	3	14
- cuff	7	3	7
- hem	85	97	100
Placket - side trouser	-	17	21
- side trouser button	44	39	21
Pockets	22	38	36
Seam - flat fell	67	56	43
Suspenders - adjustable	59	64	71
- stitched in back	56	47	36
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - "narrow wale"	56	56	43
- print	7	6	7
- stripe	18	11	21
Fiber - cotton	85	89	79
- rayon	7	6	7
- wool	7	8	7
Material - chambray	4	6	21
- corduroy	56	56	43
- covert	7	3	-
- denim	33	33	21
- feed sacks	-	6	7
- gabardine	7	8	14
- poplin	-	3	7
- print	7	3	7
- seersucker	4	6	7
- strutter	7	3	-
- twill	7	5	1
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - bright	-	-	14
- dark	11	8	-
- medium	7	6	7
Name - blue	44	44	29
- blue, navy	8	3	43
- brown	15	11	7
- gray	4	6	-
- green	7	3	14
- red	15	14	36
- rose	7	6	14
- tan	7	8	7
- wine	11	6	-

Pinafores. Pinafores were popular for children's wardrobes among 91 per cent of the mothers of the low, 88 per cent of the middle and 89 per cent of the high income groups. They were either made at home or purchased ready-made. Only a few pinafores were added to children's wardrobes through gifts. The percentage rank of those made at home for each income group was 87 per cent of the low, 98 per cent of the middle and 75 per cent of the high. Those wearing ready-made pinafores were 17 per cent of the low income group, 7 per cent of the middle and 25 per cent of the high income group. There is no explanation as to why 17 per cent of the low income group bought pinafores compared with 7 per cent of the middle income group. Perhaps the sewing skill of the home-maker and the occasions for which a pinafore is worn might make this difference. See Table 23 for the percentage provided as gifts.

Table 23. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing pinafores.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	1	3	1	2	-	-
Home-made	26	87	42	98	12	75
Ready-made	5	17	3	7	4	25

Mothers prefer belts on pinafores and wanted them either attached or set-in. Only a small percentage in the middle and high income groups wanted belts separate.

Pockets were not too important to mothers in the low and middle income groups, but 37 per cent of the high income group pre-

Table 24. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in pinafores.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Design features:			
Belt - attached	57	60	75
- separate	-	5	6
- set-in	60	70	37
Pockets	13	14	37
- reinforced with tape	13	12	-
Trim - applique	-	5	6
- edging	3	2	6
- embroidery	3	-	19
- eyelet	30	49	50
- insertion	3	-	12
- lace	13	14	12
- tatting	3	-	6
- rickrack	20	30	19
- ruffles	75	51	50
Fabric:			
Design - check	10	7	-
- dot	3	2	6
- flower	7	7	12
- figure print	10	2	6
- stripe	3	12	-
Fiber - cotton	83	79	94
- rayon	-	5	6
Finish - sanforized	10	16	6
Material - bastiste	7	5	6
- broadcloth	7	5	-
- chambray	3	7	-
- dimity	3	7	6
- dotted swiss	20	5	6
- feed sacks	10	5	-
- gingham	3	12	-
- lawn	3	-	6
- organdy	-	7	12
- pique	-	5	-
- print	33	28	31
Color:			
Description - dark	3	2	-
- pastel	17	19	19
Name - blue	25	12	6
- green	-	5	12
- pink	10	2	12
- red	10	9	12
- white	7	12	25
- yellow	7	9	12

ferred them. A few in the low and middle income groups mentioned reinforcing the pockets with tapes. For further details see Table 24.

Ruffles, eyelet and rickrack were the choice of more mothers in each income group than any of the other trims named. The preference rank of the low income group was 73 per cent for ruffles, 30 for eyelet and 20 for rickrack. Ruffles and eyelet were a preference of 51 and 49 per cent respectively of the middle income group, whereas 30 per cent mentioned rickrack. Fifty per cent of the mothers in the high income group stated their preference each for ruffles and eyelet, whereas 19 per cent liked equally well rickrack and embroidery. For other trims and the percentage preference for each, refer to Table 24.

Polo or Tee Shirt. Polo or tee shirts were worn by less than three-fourths of the children of the women interviewed. Expressed as a percentage for each income group this was low, 70; middle, 71; and high, 61 (Table 3). Table 25 gives manner of providing polo or tee shirts for the wardrobe within each income group.

Table 25. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing polo or tee shirts.

	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
Manner of providing:	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
"Hand-me-down"	2	9	2	6	1	9
Ready-made	20	87	33	94	11	100

There were few statements made about preferences of these garments. Polo or tee shirts are worn with jumpers, slacks, overalls and skirts and have a wide use the year round. In spite of this general use short sleeves were a preference of 83 per cent of the low, 77 per cent of the middle and 82 per cent of the high income group. Long sleeves were mentioned as a preference by 26 per cent of the mothers in both the low and middle income groups, whereas none was given by the high income group. Some styles come with buttoned shoulders, others are slip-on styles. Twice as many mothers in the low and middle income groups mentioned the slip-on style as buttoned. In the high income group 64 per cent desired button shoulders, whereas 45 per cent mentioned the slip-on style. Just why so many more of the high income group prefer button shoulder style is not known. The cost of this is not the explanation. Both are available through size four so that it is only in size five where the buttoned shoulder may not be had. For further details see Table 26.

Stripes, mentioned by the greatest number as the choice in design in tee shirts were the preference of 43 per cent of the low income group, 40 per cent of the middle and 100 per cent of the high income group. Table 26 gives other choices of respondents. Blue, white and yellow were colors most often mentioned. Nine color combinations were given by but one respondent each and were not included in the table.

Table 26. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color for polo or tee shirts.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Define features:			
Shoulder - button	35	31	64
Sleeve - long	26	26	-
- short	83	77	82
Slip-on	70	68	45
Fabric:			
Design - animal figure	4	6	9
- name	4	3	-
- stripe	43	40	100
Color:			
Description - bright	4	6	18
- pastel	17	9	9
Name - blue	26	11	9
- brown	9	-	-
- pink	-	6	9
- red	9	9	-
- white	30	25	82
- yellow	22	14	18
Stripe - blue and yellow	-	9	-
- blue and white	-	6	-
- multi-stripe	4	14	-

Skirts. Skirts were used by 85 per cent of the mothers interviewed in the low income group, by 75 per cent of those in the middle income group and by 83 per cent of the high income group (Table 3). The manner of providing skirts for the girls' wardrobes may be found in Table 27. The largest percentage of skirts in the low and middle income groups were made at home. Ready-made skirts made up more than one-half of those in the wardrobes of the high income group. "Hand-m-d-downs" were worn by a greater percentage of the high income group than in the other groups. Gifts and made-overs were also a source of a few skirts.

Table 27. Number and percentage of responses of the three income groups listing manner of providing skirts.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	2	7	3	8	1	7
"Hand-me-down"	3	11	2	6	3	20
Home-made	20	71	29	30	8	53
Made-over	1	4	1	3	1	7
Ready-made	7	25	12	33	10	67

Pleated skirts were preferred by more mothers in each income group than any of the other styles mentioned. Table 28 gives the percentage preference for pleated, gathered, gored, flare and plain skirts. The problem of keeping pleats in skirts must not be a great one, as indicated by the skirt style preferred. Most of the mothers used either suspenders or straps to hold up the skirts. Suspenders purchased separately were preferred by more in each income group than straps like the skirt. The majority of mothers in the low and middle and all in the high income group indicated use of buttons for strap fastening.

If designed fabric were selected for this garment, a plaid was the choice of a majority of the mothers. Checks were mentioned by only a few respondents in the low and middle income groups. Also mentioned by one respondent each, but not appearing in the table, were flowered, figured and "narrow wale" fabrics.

Table 28. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in skirts.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Skirt - gathered	25	39	27
- gored	32	17	27
- flare	14	-	-
- plain	4	11	13
- pleated	64	92	80
Straps	21	39	40
- button	14	33	40
Suspender	43	44	60
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - check	7	6	-
- plaid	53	28	47
Fiber - cotton	18	31	46
- rayon	18	25	7
- rayon (spun)	7	-	-
- wool	78	75	87
Material - corduroy	11	3	7
- crepe	-	3	7
- flannel	28	31	13
- gabardine	14	8	7
- print	7	11	-
- serge	14	-	-
- tweed	4	8	13
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - dark	7	3	-
- pastel	11	8	13
Name - black	4	3	-
- blue	21	28	13
- blue, navy	11	-	-
- brown	11	17	7
- green	7	6	13
- pink	4	11	7
- red	32	44	27
- rose	4	6	-
- white	14	8	20
- yellow	4	6	-

The preference in all income groups was the greatest for wool with 75 per cent or more indicating this as their first choice. Many mentioned more than one preference, since skirts are worn year round. Cotton and rayon each rated 18 per cent in the low income group and were equally well liked by the same number of mothers. Cotton was the second choice of 31 per cent of the middle income group with rayon ranking third represented by 25 per cent. Forty-six per cent of the mothers in the high income group expressed their preference for cotton; only a small number, 7 per cent, mentioned rayon. Spun rayon was the choice of a small percentage of the low income group.

Table 28 indicates the wide variety of material preferred. Flannel was mentioned by more mothers in the low and middle income groups, whereas tweed and flannel were represented by the same percentage in the high income group. To indicate the variety of materials mothers find suitable for skirts, the following materials were mentioned by but one mother each and were not included in Table 28: butcher's linen, pique, shantung, linen, velveteen, strutter cloth, taffeta, chambray and Indian head.

Colors for skirts were many. Those colors ranking high in all income groups were red and blue. For the low income group the percentage rank for colors was 32, red; 21, blue; 14, white; and 11 each for navy blue and brown. Forty-four per cent of the middle income group named red, 28 per cent blue, and 17 per cent, brown. In the high income group the percentage for red was 27; white, 20; and blue and green, each

13. Table 28 gives color preferences of lesser importance to the group of respondents. The colors named only once by any of the mothers interviewed and not mentioned in the table were aqua, royal, orange, tan, gold and peach.

Bathing Suits. Bathing suits were included in the wardrobes of 64 per cent of the low income group, and 50 per cent of both the middle and high income groups (Table 3). Most of the bathing suits were ready-made. A small percentage made theirs and only in the middle income group were there any "hand-me-downs". Further details concerning choice will be found in Table 29.

Table 29. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing bathing suits.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
"Hand-me-down"	-	-	3	12	-	-
Home-made	4	19	1	4	1	11
Ready-made	17	81	19	76	8	89

A one-piece bathing suit was the choice of mothers for children of this age. Represented as a percentage, the choice for the low income group was 90; for the middle income group, 72; and the high income group, 78. Two-piece styles were preferred by almost two times as many mothers in the middle and high income groups as those in the low. Styling mentioned by mothers will be found in Table 30.

Table 30. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in bathing suits.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Shorts	14	24	11
Skirt	5	8	-
Style - one-piece	90	72	78
- two-piece	10	20	22
Top - bra	10	20	11
- halter	10	40	22
- tie on shoulder	29	8	11
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - check	-	8	-
Fiber - cotton	33	40	11
- rayon	14	28	44
- wool	43	20	56
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - pastel	-	4	11
Name - blue	29	20	11
- green	-	16	11
- red	14	20	22
- white	5	16	11
- yellow	10	12	11

Three fiber preferences were given. These varied according to income groups. Wool was preferred by more mothers in the low and high income groups, whereas cotton was preferred by more in the middle income group. Perhaps availability of suits governed the mother's choice more than she realized. Table 30 presents further details.

Regarding choice for color, blue and red were preferred by more mothers in the low and middle income groups; whereas red was the leading color preference in the high income group. Other than red, the high income group liked equally well blue, green, white and yellow (Table 30). Not included in the table were the colors

mentioned by but one mother each which were gold, aqua, coral and dark blue.

Sun Suits. More mothers in the high income group used sun suits in wardrobes for their daughters than did the mothers in the low and middle income groups (Table 3). The majority of the sun suits used by mothers in the low and middle income groups were made at home, whereas in the high income group the same number of sun suits were purchased as were home-made. Sun suits provided by gifts and "hand-me-downs" were not of importance. Further details will be found in Table 31.

Table 31. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing sun suits.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	-	-	1	3	1	7
"Hand-me-down"	1	4	-	-	1	7
Home-made	20	87	24	80	8	55
Ready-made	3	13	6	20	8	53

Not all mothers preferred that sun suits have adjustable straps. This was mentioned as a desirable feature by one-fourth of the mothers in the low and middle income groups and by one-half of those in the high income group. Buttons for fastening of the straps were the first choice of mothers in all income groups. The second choice was for ties. A few respondents mentioned buckles and dot snappers. Details of these choices are given in Table 32.

Table 32. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in sun suits.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Fastening - adjustable	26	27	47
- buckle	4	7	-
- button	39	37	40
- dot snappers	9	7	7
- tie	17	30	33
Shorts	74	37	40
Skirt	17	17	13
Style - bra or bib	26	33	33
- one-piece	74	87	100
- two-piece	17	13	7
Trim - applique	13	-	7
- rickrack	4	30	47
- ruffle	26	33	73
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - animals	4	10	-
- check	4	13	-
- flower	9	7	-
- small printed	12	20	47
- stripe	39	27	20
Fiber - cotton	87	100	100
- rayon	-	3	7
Material - broadcloth	4	-	7
- chambray	22	7	7
- feed sacks	22	7	7
- gingham	4	7	7
- print	30	40	60
- seersucker	48	37	33
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - bright	4	3	-
- pastel	17	10	20
Name - aqua	13	20	13
- blue	26	33	20
- green	13	10	7
- pink	4	3	20
- red	17	13	13
- rose	4	3	-
- white	22	20	13
- yellow	4	13	27

Sun suits with shorts were preferred by more mothers than were those with skirts. Possibly the reason for this choice was because shorts require one less item of clothing for the child to wear than does the sun suit with a skirt. One-piece garments were preferred. One-third or less of the respondents liked the garment with a bra or bib. A larger percentage of respondents in the high income group preferred trimming on sun suits than did the low and middle income groups. Trim mentioned by the three income groups were ruffles, rickrack and applique. For complete details see Table 32.

Mothers who gave a preference for design in fabric preferred small printed design and stripe. Others mentioned only once by any of the mothers and not included in the table were dots and plaids. Respondents desired cotton for sun suits and made most of their selection from seersucker and print materials. Names of other material mentioned for sun suits by only one woman each were dimity, dotted swiss, percale, corduroy and sharkskin. Colors most often preferred were blue, white, aqua, red and yellow (Table 32).

Sweaters. Table 3 shows that whereas more sweaters were used for children in the low than in the middle income group, all the children of the high income group had sweaters. Most sweaters were purchased ready-made (Table 33). One mother mentioned making over a sweater for her daughter and her reply is not included in the table.

Table 33. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing sweaters.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	3	10	1	3	1	6
"Hand-me-down"	-	-	1	3	2	11
Home-made	4	14	2	6	2	11
Ready-made	25	86	26	81	17	94

Most respondents expressed a preference for sweaters of cardigan style made of wool, with long sleeves and in blue or red. Not included in Table 34 are fibers and names or descriptions of colors mentioned by but one mother each. They were namely, part wool, nylon, dark, "bright", "light", coral, gray and green. For complete details of other choices see Table 34.

Table 34. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in sweaters.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Cardigan	76	66	61
Collar	3	3	-
Sleeve - long	90	84	83
- set-in	45	50	50
- short	38	22	17
Slip on	55	34	50
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Fiber - cotton	13	6	-
- wool	96	75	100
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - pastel	7	6	11
Name - blue	28	34	28
- blue, navy	-	6	-
- pink	-	16	-
- red	55	36	33
- white	3	6	11
- yellow	7	16	-

Gowns. This garment was included in the children's wardrobe by 21 per cent or less of the mothers in the three income groups as shown in Table 3. Mothers in low and middle income groups made children's gowns, whereas in the high income group the majority were purchased.

Table 35. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing gowns.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Home-made	6	100	7	78	1	25
Ready-made	-	-	1	11	3	75

A design feature in gowns important enough to be mentioned by mothers within all three income groups was the straight cut garment. A larger percentage desired gowns to be collarless and with a belt. If fastenings were used, buttons were preferred by a larger percentage of respondents, and trims of ruffles and lace were mentioned by only the low and high income groups. Table 36 gives in detail preferences in percentages within the three income groups for design features in gowns.

Design in material for children's gowns was of minor importance. Cotton was preferred for gowns by mothers and they selected outing, plisse crepe and batiste. Colors preferred were white, pink or "pastel". Choices mentioned once and not included in the table were red and blue.

Table 36. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in gowns.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Belt	17	22	25
Beltless	-	33	25
Collar	67	22	-
Collarless	67	67	50
Cut - bias	17	11	-
- straight	50	67	75
Fastening - button	50	11	25
- tie	17	22	-
Trim - lace	17	-	25
- ruffle	50	-	25
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - children's theme	33	-	25
- flowers	17	11	-
- print	33	-	-
Fiber - cotton	100	67	75
- rayon	17	11	-
Material - batiste	17	11	25
- muslin	-	22	-
- outing	50	11	25
- plisse crepe	50	33	50
- satin	-	22	-
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - pastel	33	33	-
Name - pink	17	11	25
- white	17	33	50

Pajamas. Pajamas were a preference over gowns in all income groups. They were used by 85 per cent of the low income group, 96 per cent of the middle and 83 per cent of the high income group (Table 3). A larger percentage of mothers in the low and middle income groups made pajamas for their children, but in the high income group almost the same percentage made them at home as bought them ready-made. A very small percentage of pajamas were received as gifts in the low and middle income groups

or were being worn as "hand-me-downs" in the middle and high income groups (Table 37).

Table 37. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing pajamas.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	3	11	2	4	-	-
"Hand-me-down"	-	-	2	4	1	7
Home-made	21	75	31	66	7	47
Ready-made	10	36	21	45	8	53

Design features considered important to the respondent for pajamas include buttons for fastening. Expressed as a percentage for each income group, this was low, 54; middle, 66; and high, 60. Dot snappers were mentioned as a preferred fastening by a lesser number. Kits of patented fastenings such as dot snappers and grippers have been found on the market for the past two years. This type of fastening is also found on ready-to-wear garments. However, mothers seem to prefer the stand-by of buttons and buttonholes for garments for this age group. More respondents preferred this garment to be made without a collar than with one. If the garment had a drop seat, a self-help feature was desired by 21 per cent of the low, 19 per cent of the middle and 27 per cent of the high income group. A front opening was mentioned by all the respondents in the low income group but was of lesser importance to the middle and high income groups. Mothers in the low and middle income groups indicated their desire for the two-

piece style in pajamas, whereas in the high income group there was little difference in the percentage of responses for one and two-piece style. The growth factor has been considered in other wearing apparel when the choice was for a two-piece style. If wardrobes are to remain comfortable and wearable a two-piece style would be the most desirable. Perhaps mothers thought the blouse of a two-piece garment was more bulky than the one-piece around the waist, and preferred the single garment for this reason. However, the most important factor may be that a child can more easily care for the garment that is two-piece when going to the bathroom. As was indicated in this study, trousers with elastic all the way around the top, or with a yoke front and elastic back were much preferred over a button-on trouser style or a self-help seat feature in a one-piece suit. Mothers today, with children of this age group, do not seem to consider feet in trousers an important design feature of nightwear.

No doubt the reason why some mothers preferred gowns was because they were one-piece, easy to get into and easy for the child to care for when going to the toilet without adult help. Details of design features mothers considered important will be found in Table 38.

Cotton was preferred for the material in pajamas by those respondents in the low and middle income groups. Only a few of those in the high income group indicated a fiber preference. Outing was the material mentioned by one-half the mothers in the low and middle income groups. Materials of lesser importance were balbriggan, crinkle crepe, plisse crepe, print and seersucker. Further details of choice will be found in Table 38.

Table 38. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in pajamas.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Belt - attached	4	2	7
- tie	7	9	20
Closing - button front	54	66	60
- dot snapper front	29	21	20
Collar	25	15	13
Collarless	61	64	67
Drop seat - attached to belt	14	13	-
- button	-	17	40
- self-help	21	19	27
Leg - cuff	-	2	7
- hem	39	53	67
Opening - front	100	72	67
Pocket	25	21	20
Style - one-piece	32	34	53
- two-piece	82	60	47
- slip on blouse	-	4	33
Trouser - button on front and			
back	13	6	20
- elastic all around	61	56	47
- feet in	11	15	7
- yoke front,elastic			
back	4	25	7
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Construction - knit	18	21	27
Design - children's theme	13	15	-
- flower	7	6	-
- figure	14	21	40
- stripe	11	9	-
Fiber - cotton	89	98	20
Material - balbriggan	13	23	33
- crinkle crepe	14	9	7
- feed sacks	7	13	13
- outing flannel	53	53	27
- plisse crepe	32	19	33
- print	14	21	13
- seersucker	14	15	13
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - pastel	54	15	20
Name - blue	14	9	23
- peach	14	21	7
- pink	32	19	20
- red	7	13	-
- rose	7	23	7
- white	14	15	7

Fifty-four per cent of the mothers in the low income group stated that they wanted a pastel color. The choices in all groups did not follow the same pattern. Color preferences of lesser importance to this group were blue, peach, pink, red, rose and white (Table 38). Choices not included in the table were one each for yellow and tea rose.

Robes or Housecoats. This garment was the preference of 79 per cent of the low, 76 per cent of the middle and 67 per cent of the high income group (Table 3). Whether or not a robe was preferred as a part of the wardrobe for this age of child no doubt depends on the children's habits at bed time, in the morning, the heating facilities of the home, and the habits of the family. Most all of the robes or housecoats were obtained ready-made or were home-made. Only a few were received as gifts or were worn as "hand-me-downs". Home-mades supplied 50 per cent of the robes or housecoats in the low income group, 40 per cent in the middle and 25 per cent in the high income group. Robes or housecoats provided through ready-mades were represented by the following percentages for each group, low, 46; middle, 65; and high, 75. Further details of choice will be found in Table 39.

Mothers in the high income group mentioned that they wanted belts attached to the robes or housecoats. This feature was not of such importance to those mothers in the low and middle income groups as was a belt that tied. Respondents in each group preferred a wrap-around style over a tailored style. Zippers and buttons were mentioned as a fastening for the robe or housecoat.

Buttons were preferred by respondents in all income groups, whereas zippers were mentioned by only those mothers in low and middle income groups.

Table 39. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing robes or housecoats.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	1	4	1	3	1	8
"Hand-me-down"	2	8	3	8	2	17
Home-made	13	50	15	40	3	25
Ready-made	12	46	24	65	9	75

Puff sleeves were of importance only in the high income group; a larger percentage in the low and middle income groups mentioned a plain sleeve. Long sleeves were desired by 58 per cent of the low, 73 per cent of the middle and 58 per cent of the high income groups. Preferences within the three income groups, given in percentages, for design features will be found in Table 40.

Designed fabrics were not of importance to many mothers. More preferences were for chenille material than any of the other materials named. Materials of lesser importance were print and seersucker. Blue was the color preference in all income groups for robes or housecoats. Pink was the choice in the low and high income groups, whereas red was of importance only in the low and middle income groups. Details of choice will be found in Table 40.

Other choices omitted because they were mentioned by but one mother each were wine, orchid, tan, light, dark and multi-colored stripe.

Table 40. Preferences within three income groups for design features, fabric and color in robes or housecoats.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Belt - attached	19	5	67
- loose	19	22	-
- tie	42	46	25
Closing - button	19	16	25
- zipper	11	3	-
Pockets	8	22	25
Sleeves - long	58	73	58
- plain	4	24	17
- puff	-	8	25
- short	15	22	17
Style - tailored	42	49	50
- wrap around	69	81	75
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Design - flower	4	5	8
- print	4	8	8
- stripe	-	5	-
Material - blanket cloth	8	11	-
- chenille	54	35	58
- corduroy	15	-	8
- flannel	-	19	-
- print	27	16	25
- satin, quilted	4	-	8
- seersucker	15	16	8
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - pastel	-	5	-
Name - blue	50	38	43
- peach	4	-	8
- pink	31	8	25
- red	19	13	8
- rose	4	5	-
- white	11	8	17
- yellow	4	3	-

Slips. This study indicates that slips are not an item of clothing found in all children's wardrobes. Table 3 shows that slips are included in the wardrobes in 85 per cent of the low, 80 per cent of the middle and 72 per cent of the high income groups. Twice as many slips are home-made as are purchased ready-made. Only of minor importance are those slips which are made-over, handed down or received as gifts (Table 41).

Table 41. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing slips.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No. :	Per cent :	No. :	Per cent :	No. :	Per cent :
Gift	1	4	3	8	-	-
"Hand-me-down"	-	-	1	3	2	15
Home-made	19	68	29	74	9	69
Made-over	1	4	2	5	1	8
Ready-made	10	36	14	36	5	38

Edge finishes for slips included hems, self-ruffle and self-ruffle with lace. More mothers in the low and middle income groups preferred a self-ruffle, whereas the percentage was greater in the high income group for hems. The slip style important to the mothers interviewed for this age group was one with the built-up shoulder. Only a small percentage wished to have the slip button on the shoulder. Top finishes varied with the income group. The largest percentage preference for any one finish was for binding, represented by 46 per cent of the mothers of the high income group. Next in importance in the high income group

was a hemmed top, desired by 31 per cent. Mothers in this group liked equally well a slip finished with a facing or lace edging.

Mothers in the low and middle income groups did not express such decided preferences, but it was of interest to note that in the low income group 29 per cent favored hemmed; 14 per cent, lace; and 11 per cent, a faced top edge. The middle income group liked lace. Further details of choice will be found in Table 42.

Knit slips were mentioned by but a few respondents in the low and middle income groups. Slips made from cotton material were preferred over those of rayon. Nylon was mentioned by one mother, but is not included in the table. Mothers named many materials which they preferred for slips. Table 42 shows that muslin, nainsook and crepe were preferences of those in the low income group, muslin and nainsook were mentioned by the largest percentage of respondents in the middle income group, whereas crepe, batiste, muslin and nainsook were preferred by the high income group. White slips were the preference of all income groups. Colors of lesser importance given in Table 42 are peach, pink and tea rose.

Underwear. Table 3 shows undergarments as one of the four items of clothing each mother included in her child's wardrobe. Every child was wearing ready-made underclothing. A few garments were provided by gifts and only a very small percentage was occasionally made at home (Table 43).

Table 42. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in slips.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Bottom finish - hem	54	44	46
- self-ruffle	82	56	31
- self-ruffle lace	18	20	23
Style shoulder - built-up	100	90	85
- button	18	8	22
Top finish - binding	7	15	46
- eyelet	7	8	-
- faced	11	18	23
- hemmed	29	26	31
- lace	14	28	23
- Madeira	4	8	15
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Construction - knit	-	13	8
Fiber - cotton	86	82	69
- rayon	43	38	38
Material - batiste	7	-	15
- broadcloth	11	8	-
- crepe	25	5	23
- muslin	32	26	15
- nainsook	25	20	15
- outing	-	5	-
- print	-	3	8
- sacks	-	5	-
- sateen	4	5	-
- satin	7	3	-
- "slip-material"	18	5	-
- "slip-sheen"	4	15	-
- taffeta	-	8	-
<b>Color:</b>			
Name - peach	14	15	-
- pink	7	13	-
- tea rose	7	10	8
- white	64	77	61

Table 43. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing underwear.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	2	6	1	2	-	-
Home-made	2	6	4	8	1	6
Ready-made	33	100	49	100	18	100

A larger percentage of mothers in the low income group had a preference for leg finishes on panties than did those mothers in the middle and high income groups. Fifty-five per cent of the low income group mentioned knitted bands, 23 per cent preferred hemmed edges, whereas 15 per cent indicated a preference for elastic finish.

Less than 50 per cent of the respondents in the middle and high income groups expressed a preference for the three finishes mentioned above. The majority preferred panties that had elastic all the way around the top; some mentioned an elastic back and yoke front. Few desired the elastic to be put in so it could easily be replaced. Apparently children of this age group are not wearing combination suits but mothers are buying panties, and some are buying vests. A large percentage of the high income group and some of the low did not report using vests, but this item was used by the majority in the middle income group. Sleeveless vests were the preference of the low income group, whereas short sleeves were preferred of those in the middle and high income groups. Details of design features will be found in Table 44.

Table 44. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabrics and color in underwear.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Leg finish - elastic	15	16	28
- hemmed	23	29	11
- knitted band	55	8	6
Panties - button on	-	6	6
- drop seat	-	4	6
- elastic all around top	79	76	89
- removable elastic	27	35	22
- stitched in elastic	6	4	-
- yoke front elastic back	21	20	11
Style - all in one suit	6	2	6
- long sleeve vest	-	4	-
- panties	100	100	100
- sleeveless	48	50	17
- short sleeve	39	59	50
- vests	89	98	78
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Construction - knit	100	100	100
Fiber - cotton	76	82	72
- rayon	48	47	55
Material - like dress	9	2	11
<b>Color:</b>			
Name - blue	3	-	6
- flesh	-	4	6
- peach	3	2	6
- pink	18	20	6
- tea rose	18	10	22
- white	79	76	55

Knitted underwear was considered more important than that made of woven fabric. Cotton garments were used for everyday, whereas rayon was mentioned as the choice for dress. Panties made of material to match the dress were mentioned by but one of the respondents and is not included in the table. White was desired for underwear. Other colors mentioned were blue, flesh, peach, pink and tea rose.

Bowen (2) in a consumer purchase study, found cotton was preferred for underwear by 72 per cent, rayon by 30 per cent, silk by 25 per cent, and 4 per cent mentioned a mixture of wool and silk. Knitted underwear was preferred by 70 per cent of the consumers and 23 per cent did not buy underwear.

Anklets. All of the mothers interviewed reported using anklets for their children (Table 3). Anklets were purchased ready-made as shown in Table 45.

Table 45. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing anklets.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	-	-	2	4	3	17
Ready-made	33	100	49	100	18	100

Respondents stated that they preferred turn-down cuffs on anklets and bought those made of cotton or mercerized cotton. (Table 46).

Table 46. Preferences within the three income groups for design features and fiber of anklets.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Design features:			
Cuff - elastic	-	4	-
- elastic under	27	12	-
- no	15	8	22
- turn-down	70	76	100
Fiber - cotton	38	61	39
- cotton and rayon	3	6	-
- mercerized cotton	48	10	61
- rayon	3	2	1

Stockings. Stockings were used by only a very few mothers in the low and middle income groups for their children and none for the high income group (Table 3). Knee length stockings purchased ready-made were the preference. The respondents preferred cotton stockings in brown, red and white. Other choices given by one mother only and not included in Table 47 were stockings of wool and cotton, and colors wine, blue, green and tan.

The mode of dress for children has been changing and stockings are being worn during the winter months by only a few children of mothers interviewed in this study. Anklets seem to be in general use and protection for children's legs was provided with slacks or leggings during cold weather.

Table 47. Manner of providing and preferences with the three income groups for design features, fiber and color in stockings.

Manner of providing and Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Manner of providing:			
Ready-made	100	100	-
Design features:			
Elastic top	-	40	-
Length - knee	100	80	-
- long	-	60	-
Fiber:			
Cotton	100	80	-
Color:			
Name - brown	50	40	-
- red	50	20	-
- white	100	60	-

Waterproof Footwear. This study indicates that waterproof footwear was not a part of each child's wardrobe (Table 3). This type of footwear was included in 97 per cent of the low, 86 per

cent of the middle and 84 per cent of the high income group. Children of this age group do not have to be out of doors when the weather is bad according to reports made. Mothers stated that when the family went away from home they carried the child from the house to the car. Galoshes were the style preference of the low income group, whereas boots were mentioned as desired by more mothers in the middle and high income groups (Table 48).

Table 48. Preferences within the three income groups for style of waterproof footwear.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Style:			
Boots	38	60	69
Galoshes	62	43	31
Overshoes, buckle	3	-	0

Gloves. Table 3 gives the percentages of mothers' choices for children's gloves. This item was considered more desirable by mothers in the high income group than either those in the low or middle income group but gloves were not as popular as mittens. Gloves were bought ready-made. One mother said she made her daughter's gloves but since this was the only exception it is not included in Table 49.

Table 49. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing gloves.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	-	-	2	17	-	-
Ready-made	2	100	10	83	4	80

Respondents in all income groups preferred gloves which are made of wool. They were purchased in white, red and varigated colors. Not given in Table 50 and mentioned but once were the colors, brown, pink and red.

Table 50. Preferences within the three income groups for fiber and color in gloves.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Fiber:			
Cotton	-	17	20
Wool	100	83	80
Color:			
Description - varigated	-	8	20
Name - red	50	67	20
- white	100	43	60

Mittens. More respondents preferred mittens for their daughters than they did gloves or a muff (Table 3). According to Table 51 most of the mittens worn were purchased ready-made but a few were made at home or were received as gifts.

Table 51. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing mittens.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	2	7	8	20	1	7
Home-made	-	-	4	10	1	7
Ready-made	30	100	31	82	13	87

Mittens were not desired attached to a cord except by a few mothers in each income group. Wool was the respondents' first choice for mittens. Other materials mentioned included cotton, fur and leather. Of all the many colors named, red was a favorite. Those mentioned but once and not given in Table 52 were gray, navy, rose, wine, "pastel", "dark" and "bright".

Table 52. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in mittens.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Design features:			
Attached to cord	13	20	20
Fiber:			
Cotton	7	23	7
Fur	13	5	7
Leather	17	2	-
Wool	90	82	93
Color:			
Description - variegated	-	3	7
Name - aqua	-	5	7
- blue	7	10	13
- brown	10	15	-
- green	7	3	7
- pink	-	3	13
- red	40	41	46
- tan	7	5	-
- white	17	23	13

Muffs. Table 3 shows that muffs were preferred by a few mothers for their daughters. The muffs children carried were ready-made with the exception of one which was a gift. Mothers preferred muffs of white fur. Preferences given for other materials not included in Table 53 were corduroy, velvet, felt and material to match the coat.

Table 53. Manner of providing and preferences within the three income groups for fabric and color in muffs.

Manner of providing: and Preferences	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Ready-made	3	100	5	83	3	100
Material - fur	2	67	5	83	2	67
Color - white	2	67	5	83	1	33

Head Coverings. Not all of the mothers interviewed used some type of head covering for their children (Table 3). Most items worn were purchased ready-made. A few were home-made and others were received as gifts (Table 54).

Table 54. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing head coverings.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	4	12	2	4	-	-
Hand-made	4	12	4	8	3	19
Ready-made	32	97	48	100	16	100

Table 55. Preferences within the three income groups for design features, fabric and color in head coverings.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Design features:</b>			
Cap	15	15	-
Beret	3	8	25
Bonnet	42	40	56
Fastening - buckle	6	2	-
- tie	38	67	62
Hat	21	42	50
Helmet	6	4	6
Hood	15	16	12
Scarf	72	73	56
Stocking cap	-	10	25
<b>Fabric:</b>			
Construction - felt	30	33	-
- knitted	6	18	6
Design - plaid	-	4	-
- printed	-	6	-
Fiber - cotton	21	35	37
- rayon	9	10	12
- straw	21	12	12
- wool	64	65	31
Material - corduroy	6	4	-
- felt	30	33	37
- pique	9	2	-
- print	-	4	-
- rayon	3	2	-
- straw	6	21	25
- velvet	3	4	12
- velveteen	6	-	6
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - bright	3	4	6
Name - blue	3	16	12
- brown	3	4	-
- green	3	6	-
- pink	-	6	-
- red	18	10	6
- rose	3	2	-
- tan	-	2	6
- white	9	12	-
- wine	3	2	6
- yellow	3	4	-

Bonnets, hats and scarfs were the preferences of mothers in head coverings for their children. If the item used needed a fastening the respondents preferred a tie.

Preference was expressed for head coverings made from wool or cotton. Straw and rayon were materials also mentioned by some mothers. Probably the leading reason why less mention was made of straw was because many children go without head covering during the summer months, whereas during the colder part of the year more head coverings were worn. A larger percentage of mothers mentioned head covering of felt, than they did of corduroy, pique, print, straw, velvet or velveteen.

The color named varied. For further details regarding design features, fabrics and colors see Table 55.

Handkerchiefs. According to Table 3 more mothers provided handkerchiefs for their children in the high income group than did those in either of the other two. The percentages for the high, middle and low income groups were respectively, 73, 61, and 48 per cent. Handkerchiefs were purchased or were received as gifts (Table 56).

Table 56. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing handkerchiefs.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	3	19	10	33	2	5
Ready-made	14	88	23	77	12	92

If a design was preferred on the cotton handkerchief one was selected that had on it a print or nursery rhyme. One might assume that paper handkerchiefs took care of the greatest daily need for this item. Further details of choice is given in Table 57.

Table 57. Preferences within the three income groups for fabrics and color in handkerchiefs.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
<b>Fabrics:</b>			
Design - animal	6	3	8
- initial	-	7	-
- nursery rhyme	12	30	8
- printed	19	13	5
Fiber - cotton	88	100	92
<b>Color:</b>			
Description - bright	6	3	8
Name - white	6	23	-

Purses. Purses were included in over one-half of the children's wardrobes by the mothers interviewed. According to Table 58, the greatest number of purses were purchased. A few children were carrying those received as gifts and those made in the home.

Table 58. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing purses.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	3	17	7	19	2	17
Home-made	1	6	3	8	1	8
Ready-made	17	94	28	76	10	83

The style purse had a strap and made of plastic. The mothers named red more often than any of the other colors (Table 59).

Table 59. Preferences within the three income groups for style, material and color in purses.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Style			
Arm	28	27	50
Shoulder	100	62	67
Fiber:			
Leather	17	5	8
Plastic	83	78	67
Wool	17	8	17
Color:			
Name - black	11	8	-
- blue	11	5	-
- brown	17	5	-
- navy	6	5	-
- pink	-	8	-
- red	44	62	67
- white	22	5	17
- wine	6	-	8

Shoes. Some type of leather was the preference of mothers for children's shoes. Smooth leathers, calf, kid and patent were mentioned by the respondents. The middle income group was the only one that seemed to have a decided preference for leather. Calf was preferred as can be seen in Table 60.

Perhaps one might assume that the names of leathers for shoes were not known, or that the respondents bought what they could get. They may assume that all kinds of leather found in children's shoes were equally satisfactory.

More mothers expressed a preference for styling than they did for leathers. A sandal style was preferred by the largest percentage in each income group. High shoes and oxfords were the second and third preferences of the respondents in the low and middle income groups, whereas straps and oxfords were the second and third preferences of the high income group.

Brown and white were colors preferred by the low income group for shoes. White and red were preferred by the middle income group and white and black by the high income group. The consumer purchase study by Bowen (2) found that calf was preferred for shoes by 57 per cent, and kid by 29 per cent.

Table 60. Preferences with the three income groups for design features, material and color in shoes.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Material			
Leather - calf	6	62	17
- kid	3	-	17
- patent	18	29	-
- smooth	27	25	-
Plastic	3	2	-
Style:			
Boots	15	22	6
High shoes	42	41	33
Oxfords	36	39	44
Sandals	67	71	55
Strap	18	22	50
Tie	18	6	17
Color:			
Name - black	38	33	39
- brown	60	51	28
- red	15	62	11
- white	58	71	55

Slippers. Some type of bedroom slippers was used by 82 per cent of the children of the low income group, 86 per cent of the middle and 83 per cent of the high income group (Table 3). Although most slippers were bought at the store, Table 61 shows that a small percentage of mothers made slippers for their children. Very few gifts of slippers were received by the children in the families interviewed.

Table 61. Number and percentage of responses within the three income groups listing manner of providing bedroom slippers.

Manner of providing:	Income groups					
	Low		Middle		High	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Gift	-	-	3	7	-	-
Home-made	3	11	1	2	2	13
Ready-made	24	89	38	90	14	93

Slippers made of wool were preferred above other materials according to Table 62. The low and high income groups preferred felt slippers, whereas the middle income group liked equally as well felt and "fuzzies" slippers. Red and blue were colors most often named by respondents. They preferred a slipper style for their children.

Table 62. Preferences within the three income groups for style, fabric and color in bedroom slippers.

Preferences	Income groups		
	Low	Middle	High
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Fiber - cotton	11	-	-
- rayon	7	-	13
- wool	67	81	60
Material - corduroy	7	-	-
- felt	44	40	53
- "fuzzies"	22	40	7
- leather	18	10	20
- rayon	7	-	13
Color:			
Description - bright	15	2	13
Name - blue	26	38	33
- brown	4	7	-
- pink	4	2	7
- red	44	36	27
- tan	4	7	-
- white	4	7	13
Style features:			
Closing, zipper	4	5	7
Scuffs	-	10	7
Slippers	100	93	93

Apparently some mothers lacked information about fabrics and styles of children's clothing to express clearly a preference. This shows a need for study of children's clothing so that they could become better informed about desirable style features, suitable materials, properties of finishes and fibers and kinds of leathers, so as to be better able to evaluate clothing needs of their children.

The differences between the garments in the limited stocks of merchandise in small towns and those which reflect the new trends in materials and style features for children's clothes need to be brought to the attention of mothers. One might question whether the shortages which existed during and following the war

have caused the mothers interviewed to be less discriminating shoppers, and whether availability governed their statement of a preference, rather than the statement being a true reflection of choice.

The mothers interviewed do not all agree with recommendations made by authors on children's clothing. Their attention needs to be called to the studies that have been made of fabric and garment design by which respondents might benefit.

It would seem that people would have garments which might be made over for this age child. However, mothers were using few made-overs. Perhaps the materials on hand are not suitable, but more likely this may be due to the fact that made-overs take more time, planning and patience than mothers chose to give. Another factor which may have influenced the use of made-overs was the fact that money was plentiful.

To become an intelligent shopper for clothing the Home Demonstration Unit members need to be interested in and kept informed on consumer education.

It would seem from this study that mothers need to be made more aware of the clothing needs of children within this age group to develop initiative, self-reliance and good habit formation in dress.

The percentage of "hand-me-downs" being worn was small in all income groups. There were fewer "hand-me-downs" being worn by the low income group than either the middle or high income group. There may have been fewer children in those families to provide "hand-me-downs" or the clothing may have been of such

poor quality that it was worn out. The clothing drives that have been and are still being made by various organizations for devastated areas in Europe may have depleted supplies that otherwise might have existed.

#### SUMMARY

A study was made of the preferences of a selected group of mothers for the clothing of girls three to six years of age. One-hundred mothers who were Home Demonstration Clothing Leaders, were interviewed and expressed their preferences for style features, material and color in children's clothing. The 100 families included in this study, were divided according to income into low, middle and high income groups. There were 33 families in the low, 49 in the middle and 18 in the high. All of the families represented consisted of a father, mother and one or more children.

Seventy-five per cent or more of the mothers in all income groups reported using dresses, underwear, shoes, coats, snowsuits, blouses, pinafores, pajamas, slippers, waterproof footwear, head coverings, mittens, bedroom slippers and anklets. Only four items of clothing out of the 32 that were found in a girl's wardrobe were used by all the mothers interviewed. These were dresses, underwear, anklets and shoes. Items used by 26 per cent or less of the income groups were raincoats, raincoats, nightgowns, jeans, gloves, muffs and stockings.

Children received as gifts some 19 items in one or all of the income groups. Purses, handkerchiefs, mittens and gloves ac-

counted for the largest percentages of items received as gifts. Children in the middle income group received as gifts twice as many clothing items as did those in the high income group, and children in the low income group nearly twice as many as in the high.

Mothers interviewed were making over only a few garments for their children. Coats, snowsuits, blouses, jumpers, bib-slacks, overalls, skirts and slips were being made from other garments.

The use of "hand-me-downs" was relatively small. Garments reported being worn included coats, rainwear, snowsuits, blouses, dresses, jackets, jumpers, bib-slacks, polo shirts, bathing suits, sweaters, pajamas, robes and slips.

The study shows that in all income groups the percentage preference for blouses, dresses, jumpers, pinafores and slips made at home exceeded those purchased ready-made. The mothers in the low and middle income groups made more jackets, toppers, skirts and gowns than bought them, whereas in the high income group more bought these garments than made them except for sun suits where the number was the same. The larger percentage of respondents in all income groups bought ready-made rainwear, snowsuits, coveralls, jeans, overalls, bib-slacks, polo shirts, bathing suits and sweaters for their daughters' wardrobes. The larger percentages of mothers in the low and high income groups, bought coats, whereas in the middle income group the same percentage bought coats as made them. The majority of all accessories were purchased ready-made.

Mothers interviewed expressed a decided preference for the following garment design and style features: two-piece snowsuit; princess coat; pull-on tee shirt; cardigan sweater; two-piece pajamas; set-in sleeves; blouse with front opening; and dresses that open in the back. Seldom did a mother mention a self-help feature as desired on her daughter's clothing. Mothers apparently were not always considering the development of the child when they gave some style features desired. Preferences for features such as back openings in garments made it extremely difficult for the child to get into the garment and one which was impossible to fasten without adult help.

The mothers' choice for button fastenings exceeded any others named.

Cotton was preferred for most items of wearing apparel. Percentage preference for wool was greatest for sweaters, then in descending order, skirts, coats, snowsuits and bathing suits.

Mothers experienced difficulty naming fabrics they desired for outer wraps and many did not designate the kind of leather preferred for children's shoes. Fabric finishes were mentioned by few respondents. It may be that mothers were buying what was available and hoped for good results.

It was noted throughout the study that mothers named red and blue as their preference for outer and inner garments more frequently than other colors. Exceptions to this statement were the respondent's choice of white for blouses and tee shirts. For underwear and nightwear, white was the choice for gowns, slips and underwear; pastels for pajamas; and blue and pink for

robes or housecoats. Colors most often preferred for accessories were red and white, with the exception of shoes where more choices were for white, black or brown.

One might wonder whether throughout this study the shortages which existed during and following the war have made the mothers interviewed less discriminating shoppers.

#### CONCLUSION

There is a need for further education of mothers concerning desirable features in children's clothing. The importance of good garment design, suitability of fabrics, provision for the child's satisfaction as well as adult satisfaction in design and color, provision for growth, all need to be stressed in lessons on children's clothing presented as a part of the Extension Program.

Mothers need to be made more aware of the clothing needs of the child at this age so as to develop initiative, self-reliance and good habit formation in dress.

There is little difference in the preferences for children's apparel from one income group to another.

Made-over garments and "hand-me-down" garments are of minor importance in children's wardrobes.

Items for children's wardrobes purchased ready-made exceeded those made at home.

Mothers need to be better able to evaluate today's clothing for children.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Appreciation is expressed to Professor Alpha Latzke, Head of the Department of Clothing and Textiles, for her interest and guidance of this study, and to those mothers interviewed who were Home Demonstration Unit Clothing Leaders that assisted in furnishing data.

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## APPENDIX

## Clothing For Girls Three to Six Years of Age

## Part 1

## General Information

County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of child \_\_\_\_\_ Age 3 4 5  
 Date of birth: Mo. \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 Live: Town \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Income Group \$0 \$3,939  
 (Net Farm Income) \$3,939 - \$6,798  
 \$6,798 - \$35,345

What is the make up of the family?

Girls: \_\_\_\_\_ (give age)  
 Boys: \_\_\_\_\_ (" " )  
 Father \_\_\_\_\_ Other adults \_\_\_\_\_ (give relationship)

## Part 2

## A. Outer Garments

## 1. Snow Suits

RM HM MO HD G  
 One piece two piece Hood: Attached Separate  
 Leggings: Ski Other  
 Adjustable Features: Suspenders  
 Closings: Front zipper button Ankle: Knitted zipper  
 Sleeves: Raglan Set-in  
 Reinforcements: Knee patches  
 Pockets: Patch Set-in Placed: Hip Chest  
 Collar: Rolled Stand Other  
 Elastic at waistline Soft: Attached Separate  
 Coat: Box Princess Other  
 Material: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_ Finish \_\_\_\_\_  
 Construction \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Rainwear

RM HM MO HD G  
 Coat: Box Princess Other  
 Cape: Hood: Attached Separate  
 Hat: Other  
 Material: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_  
 Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Construction \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Coat:

RM HM MO HD G  
Box Princess Other  
 Belted Elastic at waist  
 Sleeves: Raglan Set-in  
 Pockets: Patch Set-in  
 Material: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_ Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Construction \_\_\_\_\_

B. Inner Garments

4. Dresses

RM      HM      MO      HD      G       
Neck finish: Collars (Peter Pan)      Flat      Stand      Simulated       
Other: Bound      Faced       
Openings: Front      Back      Length: Long      Short       
Entire length      Neck to below waistline       
Fastenings: Zipper      Snaps      Button      Tie      Dot snapper       
Sleeves: Cap      Raglan      Puff: Slight      Extreme       
Pockets: Flat      Set-in      Full       
Trim:uffles      Lace      Eyelet      Applique      Smocking       
Embroidery      Geometric designs      Bird      Flower       
Self piping      Bias binding      Rick rack      Braids       
Flat edgings      Other       
Sashes:      Wide      Narrow      Separate       
Attached in seam       
Men: Width      (inches) Other       
Adjustable Features       
Other       
Material: Name      Design      Fiber       
Color      Finish      Construction       
Other     

5. Pinafores

RM      HM      MO      HD      G       
Bolt: Set-in      Sash separate      Sash attached to seams       
Trim: Eyelet      Tatting      Edging      Lace      Insertion       
Embroidery      Applique      Rickrack     uffles       
Pockets:       
Reinforcements: Tape underbuttons      Others       
Material: Name      Design      Fiber       
Color      Finish      Construction       
Other     

6. Sweaters

RM      HM      MO      HD      G       
Slip on      Cardigan      Collar       
Sleeve: Long      Short      Set-in      Raglan       
Material: Name      Design       
Fiber      Color      Finish       
Construction       
Other     

7. Polo - Tee Shirts

RM      HD      G       
Slip on      Button on shoulder       
Sleeve: Short      Long       
Material:      Design      Color



17. Pajamas (continued)

Trouser waist finish: Elastic all way around Yoke front  
 elastic Back Button on front and back Other  
 Material: Name Fiber Color  
 Finish Construction Design

18. Gowns

RM HM MO HD G  
 Neck finish: Collar Collarless  
 Fastening: Button Dot snappers Tie  
 Belt Beltless  
 Bias Straight  
 Trim  
 Materials: Name Fiber  
 Color Finish  
 Design Construction  
 Other

19. Slips

RM HM MO HD G  
 Built up shoulder Button at shoulder  
 Bottom: Self ruffle Self ruffle with lace Hem  
 Top finish: Tattling Lace Eyelet Hemmed Faced  
 Binding Rickrack Mederie  
 Material: Name Design Fiber  
 Construction Color Finish  
 Other

20. Underwear

RM HM MO HD G  
 All in one Panties Vest  
 Short sleeves Long sleeves Sleeveless  
 Panties: Waist finish: Elastic all way around Removable  
 Stitched in Yoke front elastic back Drop seat Button  
 on panties  
 Bottom finish: Elastic Hemmed Rickrack  
 Crotch  
 Material: Name Color Fiber  
 Finish Design  
 Construction: Knit Like dress  
 Other

21. Robe or House Coat

HM RM MO HD G  
 Tailored Other  
 Closing: Wrap around Zipper Button Other  
 Belt: Loose Attached Other Tie  
 Sleeves: Long Short Plain Puff  
 Pockets  
 Material: Name Color Fiber  
 Finish Design Construction

## 13. Coveralls

RM      HM      NO      HD      G       
 Fastenings: Button      Dot snappers       
 Neck: Collar      Collarless       
 Pockets: One      Two      Patch      Other       
 Belt: Separate      Set-in       
 Drop seat:      Buttoned      Other       
 Placket opening at side       
 Bottom leg finish: Hem      Cuff      Depth       
 Seams: Flat fell      Other       
 Adjustable features:       
 Material: Name      Design       
 Fiber      Color      Finish       
 Other     

14. Levi's - Jeans     

## 15. Jackets or Toppers

RM      HM      HD      NO      G       
 Fastenings: Buttons      Zippers      Dot snappers       
 Neck: Collar      Collarless       
 Pockets: Patch      Set-in      One      Two       
 Material: Name      Fiber      Color       
 Finish      Design      Construction       
 Other     

## 16. Bathing Suits

RM      HM      NO      HD      G       
 One piece      Two piece      Bra      Shorts      Bra      Skirt       
 Fastening: Tie on shoulder      Halter       
 Material: Name      Fiber      Color       
 Finish      Construction      Design       
 Others     

## C. Underwear and Night Wear

## 17. Pajamas

RM      HM      NO      HD      G       
 Neck finish: Collar      Collarless       
 Slip on      Open down front      Open down back       
 Fastenings: Buttons      Dot snappers       
 Belt      Attached      Separate      Tie      Buckle      Other       
 Pocket       
 Drop seat: Buttons      Self help      Attached to belt      Other       
 Trousor legs: Cuff      Hem       
 Adjustable features

31. Stockings

G \_\_\_\_\_  
Long \_\_\_\_\_ Knee \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Material: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

32. Anklets

G \_\_\_\_\_  
No Cuff \_\_\_\_\_ Cuff turned down \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Material: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Fiber \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_  
Finish \_\_\_\_\_ Construction \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Key - RM - Ready made  
HM - Home made  
MD - Made over  
HD - Hand made downs  
G - Gifts

D. Accessories

22. Head Covering

RM      HI      G       
Scarf      Hat      Cap      Helmet      Hood      Bonnet      Barret       
Stocking cap       
Fastened by: Tie      Buckle      Snap      Button      Other       
Material: Name                      Design                      Fiber                       
Color                      Finish                      Construction                       
Other                     

23. Purses

RM      HI      G       
Shoulder      Armstyle       
Material: Name                      Color                      Fiber                       
Other                     

24. Muff

Material: Name                      Color                       
Other                     

25. Handkerchief

RM      G       
Material: Name                      Color                      Fiber                       
Other                     

26. Gloves

RM      HI      G       
Material: Name                      Color                      Fiber                       
Other                     

27. Mittens

RM      HI      G       
Material: Name                      Color                      Fiber                       
Attached to cord                     

2. Foot Wear

28. Shoes

Boots      Sandles      High shoes      Oxfords      Ties      Straps       
Other       
Material: Name                      Color                     

29. Rainwear

Rubbers      Golashes      Boots      Others     

30. House slippers

RM      HI      G       
Scuffs      Slippers       
Material: Name                      Fiber                      Color                       
Other