

# Pointers For Parents

## How To Maximize Your Child's Wardrobe With Basic Key Pieces

(NAPSA)—For parents with growing children, finding clothes they can wear that are comfortable, practical and will be worn on a day-to-day basis isn't exactly child's play. But it can be done if you remember there are some looks in kids fashion that never seem to go out of style. It is important to find those pieces and center the rest of your child's wardrobe around them.

Happily, investing in key pieces for a growing child and learning what to do to maximize a child's wardrobe can be both economical and satisfying. Here are some suggestions from the experts at Crazy 8, a children's clothing manufacturer that offers an entire line of basics, seasonal and activewear to outfit kids every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### Focus On Key Categories

Buy clothes in several key categories, including jeans, T-shirts, sneakers, pajamas, socks and weather-appropriate pieces for rainy days (a rain hat, rain jacket, galoshes), snowy days (a hat, jacket, snow pants, mittens, boots) and for a sunny summer day (a sun hat, T-shirt, shorts, sandals).

The most basic and most worn outfit is a pair of jeans and a T-shirt. Pick the perfect pair of jeans by finding the right combination of wash, rinse, cut and fit. Jeans are now offered in a variety of shapes, colors and sizes. Layer tops in bright, happy colors and stripes to express children's bright and happy personalities and have fun with clever and graphic T-shirts to express your child's personality and mood.

About.com's Guide to Kids' Fashion reporter Michelle Kouzmine



**Experts in children's clothing remind parents that fit is very important.**

offers tips on how to maximize your children's wardrobes to save money while still keeping them in style and giving them tons of fashion options. With a few simple tricks, you can take a basic wardrobe and make it extraordinary.

### Several Tricks To Abide By:

- Layer, layer, layer! For the beginning of the fall season, layer a lightweight cardigan, blazer, zippy or sweater over summer items to extend their usefulness.
- Use inexpensive accessories to make a basic outfit more fun and personalized.
- Buy basics such as T-shirts, socks, underwear, chinos and jeans in multiples when they are on sale. Buying out of season saves you the most money, but make sure to calculate the proper size for the proper season when buying ahead for fast-growing kids.
- Have your children pick out

two or three of their favorite colors. Purchase clothes only in those chosen colors in addition to neutrals, so that they have a true mix-and-match wardrobe. This will not only make getting ready in the morning faster and easier, but it maximizes their wardrobes by giving them more possible outfits.

- Neutral bottoms such as khakis, jeans and black or gray slacks or skirts can be paired with an infinite number of tops. Michelle usually suggests buying twice as many tops as bottoms.

### Wear It—From 8 A.M. To 8 P.M.

Some kids' clothing has been designed for every minute of a kid's busy schedule—at school, after school, bedtime and on weekends.

For example, at Crazy 8, parents can find basics for a child's wardrobe, including:

- For girls: activewear, jeans in three styles and five washes, tops and tanks, sweaters and outerwear, dresses, swimwear, sleepwear and accessories including shoes
- For boys: activewear, jeans in five styles and seven washes, tops, bottoms, sweaters and outerwear, swimwear, sleepwear and accessories including shoes.

Experts in kids' clothing remind parents that fit is very important. Many manufacturers spend a lot of time ensuring that these clothes are not only rugged and durable, but that they are incredibly comfortable and easy for kids to put on. These will be the first clothing that kids reach for when they change out of their school clothes.

For more, visit [www.crazy8.com](http://www.crazy8.com).