

# Theme: Clothes

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Clothes Race: Lay out 2 or 3 lengths of rope or crepe paper ribbon along the floor to create a race line. At the end of each ribbon, put a shower cap, slippers, and bathrobe. Children can race each other to the end, put on the clothing, and race back to “base”! You can use different sets of clothing each day, depending on the theme for the day.
- Find the mittens! Hide paper mittens (or shoes) around the yard and let the children race to see who can find them all. To enrich the activity, put a number on each one and let children put them in numerical order to see if they have found them all! Use 20-30 of them if your children are older... 5-10 for the younger kids. This can also be done with letters of the alphabet.

## Math Activities:

- See the gross motor activity listed re finding the mittens/shoes.
- Count flannel board pieces cut out in the shapes of clothing—hats, shoes, jackets, dresses, pants, shirts, mittens, etc.
- Likenesses and differences—Color 3 copies of the same picture just alike and make 1 slightly different. Let children tell you which one is different and why.
- Compare different sizes of shoes, etc. You can actually use real shoes for this or cutouts.

## Science Activities:

- Display scraps of different types of fabric so children can feel the difference in texture, etc. Children can spray the scraps with water to see if the fabric absorbs the water or repels the water. If you have snow available, let children observe how the fabric reacts to the snow.
- As part of your circle time, compare flame-retardant fabric to non-flame-retardant fabric to demonstrate the difference and the importance of safe fabric for pajamas.

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

Set up the water table and let children do the laundry! They can wash doll clothes and hang them up to dry on a makeshift clothes line that you set up for them!

Paper dolls – set out different outfits for the paper dolls to wear. This activity can also be done on a flannel board with flannel dolls/clothes.

Buttons, snaps, zippers, shoe laces—if you don’t have a board with all these activities on it, supply an assortment of clothes that do and let the children practice.

Teach young children how to tie their shoes!

## Snacks:

- Cut sandwiches, cookies, etc., in the shape of mittens.
- Sing “If All the Raindrops Were Lemon Drops and Gum Drops” and eat the items identified in the song (in small quantities, of course!). You could do a different verse each day, if you’d like. That way the children can practice the song and learn all the verses. You could even let the children wear rain coats or rain hats while you do this to add to the fun!
- Have fun decorating and eating umbrella-shaped cookies. Provide a variety of sprinkles and frosting colors to really make this a fun experience! (It will count as an art activity at the same time!)

## Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

Take a field trip to a local used clothing store (i.e., Salvation Army, Goodwill) to buy used t-shirts the kids can paint and decorate as an art activity!

## Songs & Fingerplays:

<http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/fingerplays-for-kids.cfm>

## Books:

Cinderella's Dress, by N. Willard

Angelina Ballerina: The Costume Ball by K. Holabird

Clementine's Winter Wardrobe, by K. Spohn

If the Shoe Fits, by G. Soto

Goody New Shoes, by H. Ziefert

Santa's Short Suit Shrunk, by N. Buck

Andrew's Magnificent Mountain of Mittens, by D. L. Bingham

What kind of weather? by D. P. Cerbus & C. F. Rice

Doll Party, by S. Albert

A New Coat for Anna, by H. Ziefert & A. Lobel

Captain Pajamas, by B. Whatley & R. Smith

Time to Get Dressed! by DK Publishing

Fuzzy Bear: A Getting Dressed Book, by D. Bentley

Elmo's World: Getting Dressed!

Froggy Gets Dressed, by J. London & F. Remkiewicz

Getting Dressed, by M. Price & M. Kemp

Get Ready, Eddie! A Book About Getting Dressed,

by N. Gabriel [Little People]

I Can Dress Myself! by B. Muller

Too Purpley! by J. Reidy

## Dramatic Play:

- This one's easy! Set out a variety of clothes and costumes for the children to play "dress up"! Don't forget jewelry, hats, and shoes!
- Set up the water table and a clothesline for laundry day!
- Put out several dolls and doll clothes for children to dress.

## Art:

- Paint the t-shirts you bought on the field trip.
- Sponge paint socks – when they're dried (the next day?), let the children wear them around the house!
- Let the children cut out pictures of clothing from old magazines, then make a collage out of them. You might even let them do this by theme—winter clothes, summer clothes, etc.
- Spatter paint cutouts of pants, shirts, etc., and let children attach them with string to a coat hanger to make a mobile.
- Put out the plain white paper and crayons so children can draw pictures of themselves wearing their favorite outfits! Let them describe those outfits to you and tell you why those are their favorites!

## Circle Time Activities:

- What clothes are appropriate for different types of weather?
- Clothes are made out of different kinds of fabrics. Which ones are natural fibers and which ones are man-made? How do those fibers react to water, snow, fire? With extra supervision to keep the kids away from the fire, you can burn different scraps of fabric to show how some burn, some melt, some curl, some resist the flames. Our pajamas are made of flame-retardant material. What does that mean? What is cotton? What is silk? Where do they come from?
- What do cowboys wear? What do firefighters wear? What do police officers wear? What do astronauts wear? What do YOU wear?
- What do you wear when you go swimming? When you go to a football game? When you go to a fancy ball? When you go to the park? When you play in the snow? When you come to child care/school? When you do messy activities like painting?
- Where are clothes made? Talk about factories. Demonstrate the use of a sewing machine, a needle and thread, etc. Show a dress pattern and talk about the different markings and what they mean, the type of paper the pattern is printed on and why, etc. Let children use tissue paper and try to make their own patterns. If you teach older children, let them cut out a piece of fabric using their small patterns and sew the item with needle and thread.
- Invite a seamstress or tailor to visit your program and talk about their work.
- Display a manikin and let children pretend to be tailors—or let them make doll clothes by measuring the doll, cutting out the fabric, and sewing the little outfits!
- Where are your clothes made? Read the tags in the children's shirts to compare! This is a fun activity; you can even look on the globe or a map to find where that country is located.