

## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING



### DECORATIVE AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS



Tapes, trims, decorative stitching, and appliqués can be used to decorate children's clothing, cover wear marks, or for mending. Whenever a decorative technique is added, consider applying it to more than one area of the garment to create a total effect. For example, a decorative trim or stitch used at the hem of a garment can also be repeated on the sleeves or the collar.

When trim is being added to a woven garment, plan to create an interesting design rather than just covering up the wear line or mended area. For example, when covering the crease line created by lowering a hem, try adding three rows of trim for a dynamic effect, rather than only one row.

### TAPES AND TRIMS

Tapes and trims, such as rickrack, bias tape, soutache braid, ruffled stretch lace, and middy braid, can be top-stitched to a garment. To apply these features quickly and easily, use a fabric glue stick to hold them in place while stitching.

**Reflective tapes** are helpful safety features that can be added to a garment for a decorative effect. Stitch them to children's outdoor wear, rainwear, and Halloween costumes. Before purchasing reflective tape, note the differences between the three types of reflective tape: florescent, reflective, and fluorescent-reflective. Select the tape that best suits the use of the garment. Reflective tapes can be purchased at hardware and bicycle stores. They are available in narrow tape widths.

For safety's sake, stitch reflective tape to cuffs, collars, sleeves, and waistbands of outerwear.

**FLOURESCENT MATERIALS** seem to glow because they emit light as well as reflect it off their surface. This added light makes them unusually bright during the day, but they are not as effective at night.

**REFLECTIVE or RETRO-REFLECTIVE MATERIALS** do not glow; they must be illuminated by an outside light source. This material reflects incoming light directly back to its source. Therefore, when the viewer is near the light source (such as the headlights of an on-coming car), a great deal of light is reflected back, making the material look bright. These reflective surfaces are only reflective to beams of light; they are not reflective to daylight.



**REFLECTIVE-FLOURESCENT MATERIALS** combine the properties of both reflective and fluorescent materials. This surface is fluorescent during the day and reflective at night, providing an all-purpose use for children's outdoor clothing.

Adapted for use in Kentucky with permission from Coats & Clark  
(Reference Leaflet PE2174)

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