TOUGH CLOTHES FOR THE TENDER YEARS

More than ever and better and better, children and their clothes agree. It's rumpus gear for rumpus lives, with organdie and frills belonging nowhere but the nanny belt. Tough corduroy and cotton drill make the smartest workaday togs; many hand-knitted woollens will stand up to a washing machine, while tweedy trousers suits and plastic macs reflect light-hearted adult ways with clothes. In the past few years several fully fledged children's fashion houses have sprung up. All have decisive ways with colour, keep a sharp eye on current grown-up trends and cut their clothes accurately, reflecting their small customer's shapes. Now, encouraged by demand, more and more shops are opening up to sell these pretty, worldly little clothes. Most are still in London, but persistent mothers will find them in further-flung environs as well; and most shops will send catalogues and meet mail orders. — ALIX COLEMAN
Opposite: Trousers suit by Emily Jane in check tweed with its own leather belt. Sizes to fit 7-14 years, from £2 15s. At Grade One, 1 Launceston Place, London W.1; Glenda, Enfield; Teenette, St. Helier. Black leather face-up shoes by Clarks, £1 10s. 11d. at Pinet, 7 Berkeley House, Baker Street, London W.1; Long-sleeved Austrian polo-neck cotton sweater, sizes 26-36 in. chest, from £1 2s. From a selection at Colts of Hampstead, 31 South End Road, London, N.W.3. Narrow corduroy jeans, sizes to fit 3-12 years, from £1 9s. at Grade One. Leather striding shoes, £2 7s. 11d. from Pinet.

Candy-striped double-breasted mac in plastic-coated French cotton with its own tie belt. Sizes to fit 2-6 years, £1 19s. 6d. from Little People, 51 Upper Montagu Street, London W.1. Under it a long-sleeved, polo-necked sweater in black Shetland wool, sizes 22-32 in. chest. It costs from £2 2s. at Grade One and John Barker, Kensington High Street, London W.8. Striped, ribbed Swedish cotton T-shirt, sizes 26-36 in. chest from £1 12s. Swedish jeans, belt-bottoned, in white drill, sizes to fit 7-14 years from £2 7s. 6d. Swedish denim cap from £1 9s. 6d. All at Colts of Hampstead, 31 South End Road, London N.W.3.

Above: Flower sprigged, brushed rayon dress with wide bell cuffs lined in broderie anglaise. By Mary Louise, sizes to fit 1-6 years, about £3 10s. From Dickins and Jones, Regent Street, London W.1; Sugar and Spice, Manchester; Glamby, Middlesex; Hand-knitted Aran, polo-neck sweater, sizes 26-36 in. chest, from £4 15s. Dutch needlecord knickerbockers in sizes to fit 7-14 years, from £3. From Colts of Hampstead, Hush-Puppies, £2 9s. 11d., from branches of Lilly and Skinner. Cable-stitch dress by Mary Louise in white anly, hand-knitted in pure wool and machine washable. Sizes to fit 6-14 years, about £6 8s. From Dickins and Jones, Regent Street, London W.1; Sugar and Spice, Manchester; Glamby, Middlesex; Italian shoes in black and white leather, £2 19s. 11d. from Pinet. Brass-buttoned red topcoat cut like a guardsman's, sizes 1-6 years, about £7 10s. From Mary Louise from Dickins and Jones, Regent Street, London W.1; Sugar and Spice, Manchester; Glamby, Middlesex; Black lace-ups £2 7s. 11d. from Pinet.