

YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DRESS-UP SET:

What to Include and What to Leave Out

For both girls & boys, a great first dress-up set can include:

- One or more simple hats
- An apron
- A loose fitting adult shirt—it can be a shirt, a dress, a coat, a doctor's coat
- A jacket or vest
- Scarves or play-silks can become turbans, belts, bird wings, long “hair,” or any number of creative pieces
- Several pairs of basic shoes and boots in adult or big kid sizes (If you include high heels, choose pumps or boots that safely enclose the entire foot rather than strappy sandals, and carefully consider your child's coordination)
- A simple skirt or two with an elastic waist can double as a dress, a cape, or a turban/headdress
- A pair of gloves or mittens
- A simple cape for a superhero, a magician, or a king/queen
- A fabric crown
- One or more simple eye masks
- Simple bags, totes, or purses
- Sunglasses or glasses with plastic safety lenses (or lenses removed altogether)
- Basic costume jewelry pieces like plastic bracelets or necklaces (checked for safety,



of course, and only for children over age 3).

- A durable headband or two, with or without attached cat/animal ears
- A pair of large socks or two (to use as shoes, gloves, or animal ears)

A word on safety:

Please **DO** exercise reasonable care in choosing age-appropriate items, especially for children under the age of 3. Most commercially available costumes are marked with an age range so that very young children (under age 3) are not exposed to choking hazards, cords that can wrap around necks, and the like. If items aren't age-graded, avoid any items with buttons or small parts that can come loose, drawstrings that can entrap or cause a strangulation hazard, or anything breakable that may yield sharp edges. Keep the age and skill level of the child in mind. (For gifts, be a thoughtful giver and ask the parent first!)

For more fun costume ideas and tips, visit **THE ROWDY LADYBUG** (rowdyladybug.com)

Jane Caldwell is the owner/designer of The Rowdy Ladybug. She designs items free of logos and commercial characters, to allow children's imaginations free rein.

