

In an **Early Show** back-to-school fashion show, Liz Zack from Parents.com showed how to incorporate fresh new looks while keeping a watchful eye on the bottom line while putting together outfits worthy of an A+!. Six kids, ages 6 -10, modeled the latest trends:

Wardrobe Budget Tips:

Do a careful inventory before going out shopping
Wait a few weeks, if you can, to get sales on fall merchandise
Buy less and transition summer stuff with layers
Work in hand-me-downs
Invest in versatile pieces like cardigans
Spend less on the tops and bottoms, and more on the pieces kids wear every day like shoes and packs

TREND: Jewel Tones, Leggings, Mixing and Matching Prints

Echoing women's fall fashions, saturated jewel tones are in this season for kids, too. We feature a blue leaf-patterned dress as one example of how these deep rich tones have trickled down to children's wear. The dress is paired with ever-popular leggings -- in striped pink, as well as a polka-dotted messenger bag. This mixing and matching of prints and colors also continues to be a fun and popular trend.

Outfit on the show:

- Reese dress by Pink Chicken. PRICE:\$70; www.moxiekidsonline.com
- Stretch Stripe Leggings by Pumpkin Patch. PRICE: \$19.50); www.pumpkinpatchusa.com
- Heart cut-out metallic ballerinas by Pumpkin Patch. PRICE: \$34.50; www.pumpkinpatchusa.com
- Messenger Bag by Four Peas. PRICE:\$45; www.fourpeasonline.com

BUDGET TIPS:

Extend use of summer clothes. When kids go back to school in August and September, it's not really cold yet, so take advantage and extend their summer wardrobe. Pair a dress with leggings, shorts with tights, or tee shirts with long sleeves underneath them to get another season's use out of these pieces.

Extend use of outgrown clothes. If your kid's clothes are getting too tight or short, reinvent them. It's a great way to stretch your dollar! For instance, reinvent a dress as a tunic and add leggings.

TREND: Vests, Orange and Messenger Bags

Vests are really big this fall, and since we're not yet ready for big winter jackets, they are the perfect throw-on when the weather starts getting a little cooler. Layering also continues to be practical as well as popular. We've layered a long-sleeve tee and an orange plaid button-up -- to add a punch of color -- under our vest. To finish off the look: A messenger bag. Kids, especially older ones are opting for these instead of backpacks. Plus, the cool skater/graffiti styles can give a preppy look a bit of an edge.

Outfit on the show:

- Vest by Gymboree. PRICE: \$32.50; www.gymboree.com
- Plaid Button Up by Quiksilver. PRICE: \$38; www.quiksilver.com
- Navy long sleeve tee by H&M. PRICE: \$6.90; www.hm.com
- Black-lined canvas cargo pants with belt by Pumpkin Patch. PRICE: \$36.50; www.pumpkinpatchusa.com
- Sneakers by Vans. PRICE:\$45; www.vans.com
- Messenger bag by Four Peas. PRICE: \$45; www.fourpeasonline.com

TREND: Scarves

Just like jewel tones have carried over to kids from the women's fashion trend this fall, so too have scarves. They are a great and inexpensive way to perk up neutrals.

Outfit on the show:

- Scarf by Pumpkin Patch. PRICE: \$10.50; www.pumpkinpatchusa.com
- Puff sleeve top by Abe Jones. PRICE: \$44; www.abejones.com
- Dark denim skinny jeans by H&M. PRICE: \$14.90; www.hm.com
- Silver Sparkle belt by H&M. PRICE: \$4.90; www.hm.com
- Boots by Payless. PRICE: \$24.99; www.payless.com
- Eco Pack backpack by Dante Beatrix. PRICE: \$50; www.dantebeatrix.com

BUDGET TIP:

Mix in hand-me-downs. Jeans are a great wear-them-forever hand-me-down. Pair them with a new fashion-y top, like this puff sleeve style, and no one would ever guess that your first kid wore them two years ago.

TREND: Organic/Natural Fabrics

There's a big trend towards making kids clothes with eco-friendly fabric like this dress by kit and lili. Although you may end up spending a little more money, lessening the environmental impact is worth it.

Outfit on the show:

- Jane dress by Kit + lili. PRICE: \$72; www.kitlili.com
- Jackey Coat by H&M. PRICE: \$44.90; www.hm.com
- shoes by Gymboree. PRICE: \$34.50; www.gymboree.com
- Lunch container by Gymboree. PRICE: \$14.50; www.gymboree.com

BUDGET TIP: As you're planning out how much to spend on what -- save on items you wear less, and spend on things kids wear again and again like shoes, bags, and coats. A coat like the one we feature here could be worn every day right into early winter, and it's only \$45.

TREND: Graphics Tees and Newsboy Caps

Graphic tees continue to be in this season. Use the ones you already bought last summer and layer a long sleeve shirt underneath for warmth. And the hat of the season is the newsboy cap -- very fashionable while adding a little warmth.

Outfit on the show:

- Boys layered shirt by Mini Boden. PRICE: \$24; www.bodenusa.com
- Plaid top by Quiksilver. PRICE: \$32; www.quiksilver.com
- Batman Tee by GapKids. PRICE: \$22.50; www.gap.com
- Cords by Greendog. PRICE: \$14.98; www.macys.com
- Hat by H&M. PRICE: \$5.90; www.hm.com
- Camo sneakers by Pumpkin Patch. PRICE: \$32.50; www.pumpkinpatchusa.com
- FeatherLight backpack by Land's End. PRICE: \$39.50; www.landsend.com

TREND: Metallic Shoes

All summer long, celebrity baby Suri Cruise was photographed wearing her metallic Mary Janes. As a result, metallic shoes will be big this fall.

Outfit on the show:

- Top by Garnet Hill. PRICE: \$20; www.garnethill.com
- Cardigan sweater by Old Navy. PRICE: \$25; www.oldnavy.com
- Floral Bubble skirt by Abe Jones: PRICE: \$60; www.abejones.com
- Leggings by Country Kids. PRICE:\$7.50; www.jefferiessocks.com
- Gold Cherish ballet flats by American Eagle exclusively for Payless. PRICE:\$19.99;
www.payless.com
- Back pack by Old Navy. PRICE:\$16.50; www.oldnavy.com
- Headband by Children's Place. PRICE:\$3.50; www.childrensplace.com

BUDGET TIP:

Cardigans are the ultimate versatile piece. Get them in a couple of neutrals and mix and match them everywhere, over tee shirts, dresses, etc.

Editor's note: Classroom furniture provided by:
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