





Activities

- ▶ Challenge the children to fit a number of pattern pieces on the smallest amount of fabric, or have a competition to see who can fit the most pattern pieces on their piece of fabric.
- ▶ Give the children a kitchen cloth, or a square of fabric, and prepared pattern pieces. Allow time for them to experiment with laying on the pattern pieces to avoid wastage. After a brief time working individually, encourage the children to support each other in pairs and then share their findings with larger groups of children. Who had the best layout? Would it help to cut all the same pieces from one piece of fabric? Arrange for the children to work in small groups to see how many pattern pieces can be cut if they combine their fabrics.

JOINING TEXTILES

Video: Making a hat 

Photocopiable page: How to sew correctly 

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Joining techniques that the children should learn before they start to make their hats are: pinning fabric right-sides together, so that the seams fall on the inside; tacking or sewing the two pieces together; snipping the fabric to allow for curves; tacking wadding to fabric. These skills can be taught through teacher modelling, supported by the 'Making a hat' video and the 'How to sew correctly' photocopiable sheet.


Discussing the video

- ▶ Use the video to introduce the children to how to pin, sew and stitch materials together to create a product. Ask them why the pieces of cut fabric are positioned together 'inside out' (right-sides together) for stitching.

Activities

- ▶ Demonstrate how to use a simple sewing machine (if available). Encourage the children to practise on simple shapes first.
- ▶ Demonstrate how to tack wadding to fabric.
- ▶ Emphasise the correct use and storage of needles and pins (pushed into a cork to avoid injuries) – refer to your school's policy and the introduction to this chapter.
- ▶ Provide the children with small pieces of non-fraying fabric for them to use to practise the following skills: pinning right sides together prior to stitching; using running stitch or back stitch to join fabric; snipping curved edges; tacking wadding to fabric. Prompt them to refer to photocopiable page 31, 'How to sew correctly'.

ADDING COLOUR, TEXTURE AND DECORATION TO TEXTILES

Photographs: Police helmet, Sombrero, Wedding hat 1, Wedding hat 2, Woolly hat 1, Woolly hat 2 

These activities will show children how to use a variety of sewing and decorating techniques that they can then choose from when making their own hats. If a sewing machine is available, help children to use this to join or decorate their product.

Discussing the photographs

- ▶ Examine the photographs of hats with different decorations and show any examples you have in your own collection. Ask the children if they can name any of the different techniques used to add the decorations. Do they have any clothes or accessories that have been decorated in these ways?

Activities

- ▶ Demonstrate to the children some of the different techniques for adding colour, pattern and texture to a base fabric – for example, embroidery, simple appliqué, sewing or gluing on sequins, painting with fabric paints.
- ▶ Provide the children with small pieces of fabric in a variety of colours and let them experiment with a variety of decorations and decorative techniques including 3D paints, appliqué, embroidery, sequins, buttons, beads, lace and pompoms.