

Toddler Traditional Multicultural Clothing

Here's What You Get!

6 traditional garments from 6 different regions of the world:

- Africa - Dashiki and Kufi
- China – Tangzhuang
- India – Sari
- Japan – Kimono
- Mexico – Blusa y Falda
- Russia – Kosovorotka

Teacher's Activity Guide

Introduction

Pretend or dramatic play builds skills in many essential developmental areas. Through their play, children actively experiment with social and emotional roles, build self-esteem, nurture their imaginations, and develop language skills. Dressing up fosters a sense of empathy, strengthens relationships, and encourages children to explore gender roles.

In today's diverse world, children may see people on TV, in pictures, and even next door wearing clothes that are different from their own. When children try on a kimono or dashiki, they become more familiar with and appreciate the uniqueness around them.

The Excellerations® Toddler Traditional Multicultural Clothing set has specially selected items that represent six different regions of the world. Garments are modified and constructed to make it easy for toddlers to dress up. For example, all items have front closures, the Chinese tangzhuang closes with hook-and-loop instead of knots, and the Indian sari is NOT made with 25 feet of fabric!

This guide provides basic information about the garments in the set, vocabulary words, and cultural background. As the children dress up, encourage them to discover the differences in colors, designs, and styles.

Head Start Learning Objectives

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT -

Sense of Identity & Belonging

Goal P-SE 9 : Child recognizes self as a unique individual having own abilities, characteristics, emotions, and interests.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT -

Sense of Identity & Belonging

Goal P-SE 11: Child has sense of belonging to family, community, and other groups.

ECERS

Gender-Specific Dress Up Clothes

24.5.1: At least 2 male-specific props and at least 2 female-specific props.

24.7.1: At least 2 examples of dramatic play props that reflect diversity.

#28 Diversity Materials Checklist

28.5.1: There should be many books (at least 3-5), many pictures/posters (at least 3-5) and other materials (at least 3-5) that reflect diversity (race, culture, age, ability, and gender).

Toddler Traditional Multicultural Clothing (continued)



AFRICA—A dashiki is a colorful, loose-fitting shirt from West Africa worn by girls, women, boys, and men. It usually has short sleeves and a fancy V-shaped collar. Dashiki designs have geometric shapes such as circles and triangles. Colors like green, brown, and yellow represent the earth. People wear dashikis with a skirt or pants. Boys and men also like to wear a short round hat called a kufi.



CHINA—The tangzhuang (or Tang suit) is a Chinese jacket that is popular with people all over the world. At first, only men and boys wore tangzhuang, but now girls and women wear it too. The tangzhuang has a straight collar, long sleeves, and a front opening that closes with special knots instead of buttons.



INDIA—A sari is a traditional Indian three-piece garment for girls and women. One piece is a very long strip of fabric - 15 to 25 feet long! – that is wrapped around the waist and draped over the shoulder. The sari is worn with a fitted top and a long skirt. Saris can be made of cotton or silk. Bright colors and gold trim are very popular. Some saris are decorated with crystals, beads, pearls, or tiny mirrors to make them sparkle. A beautiful sari is considered a symbol of style, grace, and cultural pride.



JAPAN—The kimono is a traditional Japanese garment; the word “kimono” actually means a “thing to wear.” Kimonos are long T-shaped robes with long, wide sleeves and a sash or belt called an obi that is tied in the back. Kimonos are worn with special shoes called zōri. Kimonos for girls are light colors with designs of flowers or birds. Today, kimonos are most often worn by women. But sometimes boys and men (and even sumo wrestlers) wear kimonos to parties and other special occasions.



MEXICO—Mexican clothing is bright and beautiful. Women and girls wear a cotton blusa y falda (skirt and blouse). Blouses are simple and pretty, skirts are long and ruffy. Both are often trimmed with ribbons and lace. People also wear ribbons and flowers for necklaces, bracelets, and headbands. All kinds of bright colors are popular; red, green, and white are the colors in the Mexican flag.



RUSSIA—Russian men and boys wear a tunic called a kosovorotka. It is longer than a regular shirt – it comes almost to the knees – and has an opening that is a little off-center. A really nice kosovorotka is made of cotton or silk, and has attractive embroidered ribbons at the collar, along the sides, and at the hems. The shirt is never tucked into pants, and can be worn with or without a belt. For Russian people, the color blue represents dreams and exploring new places.