



Oldest boy at age 3.5 years

## **Nobody Told Me They Would Grow So Fast: A Children's Clothing Class By Baroness Kaleeb the Green Eyed Toy Maker**

I really did not understand how fast children grew, until I had to clothe 2 children for 10 days of camping. In the past I had made disposable tunics, at a rate of about 15 per summer. That was enough for my son to make it through Pennsic. Then he got a brother and I was now looking at making 30 tunics in a very short amount of time. I figured there had to be a better way. I studied Medieval paintings of children, looked at other children, took classes, read and talked to parents. Most of what I was seeing was clothing not designed to last or clothing that would need to be altered. I hate alterations, plus whatever I did would need to be replaced for the second child.

I created a list of things that the garment would need to have, then found a garment that fit the description for both boys and girls. The garment would need to have multiple lengths, one which is not too fitted, one which has only a single layer but can be worn layered for warmth and did not need a belt or pants but could be used. I think I have found all of that in the transitional garment of the early 1400's referred to as the G63 (see pictures). I took a class at the last Costumers Symposium. The teacher was Baroness Adriana la Bretonne. She did a wonderful job on the class, but at the end of the class I did not think I would make the garment. It was not from the time period that I was interested in, nor is it from the time period my husband wears. The garment has 8 pieces in the main body, a collar and 4 pieces in each sleeve. In my mind that was a lot of pieces for an unfitted garment. However it

could be worn layered, at a variety of lengths, solved the too large neck hole problem of small children, was easy to research, and it does not use much fabric. I have tested my theory at the last three Pennsics with a great success rate.

I thought I was doing great with my son's garb until I caught him standing on his head at a demo. He was wearing Spiderman underwear, and everybody now had a lovely view. I looked at pictures and talked to friends, nobody had made pants for their children. I chose to make white cotton and linen shorts three sizes too big and extra long. White fabric will bleach. I put elastic at the waist and two button holes to hold up hose. I then tied everything securely together, so it would function as a single garment. The hose I made were a little long, with really long ties and no feet. That way as he grew, the ties could be let down and his shoe size would not be a problem. To complete his outfit I made a belt, small pouch, hood and a few toys. He now has somewhere to put rocks and something to do at events.



Heraldic polar fleece hoods are great!

# How to Prevent Alligator Wrestling, in a Dozen Easy Steps

By Baroness Kaleeb the Professional Alligator Wrestler

Before I get into the details on how to make the children's clothing here are some hints on how to get the child into the garb you have made.

1. Make the garb in a favorite color.
2. If sewing for two children, do not forget to make the larger child some clothes in the other child's favorite color.
3. For younger children matching garb is fun. Make a parent matching clothing.
4. Use enough buttons to make the garb easy to get a sleeping child out of. You can even put fun buttons on sleeve cuffs, where most people will not see them.
5. Make a toy from the time period in question.
6. Read books or watch movies about the time period in question.
7. Make the outer or bottom layer a dark or grass stain color.
8. Do not forget to put pants on tree climbing or head standing children.
9. Fittings will be painful no matter what. Use bribery.
10. Tie hats on with big, ugly knots and still be prepared to lose some and listen to a lot of fussing.
11. Hoods work better than capes and are slightly harder to lose.
12. Do not make everything the same size. This way you will have one outfit which will still fit, after the rest have been out-grown. Thus giving you a month grace period to make new clothes.



The best toy box at an event will attract friends.



Enjoy matching outfits while they last.



Do not be upset when clothes are abused. Water battle at Pennsic



# The Sideless Surcoat Solution

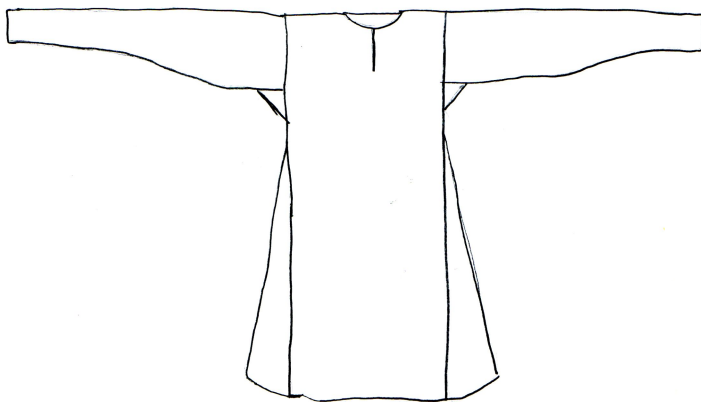
By Baroness Kaleeb the Green Eyed

Once I had my problem solved for my boys, I set out to do the same for a friend who has a young girl. The answer was similar, I made sideless surcoats and chemises. When it is time to replace the garments I will go with a more period cut, as it will address some of problems of the garb I made.

The first set of sideless surcoats and chemises I made were not quite correct. I used an Italian Renaissance chemise and an adult styled pattern for the surcoat. I made the sleeves extra long with elastic at the wrist and neckline. I did not add extra to the length, as the hemline would not be seen. The chemises made two Pennsics with no altering. It looks like they might make a third Pennsic once the sleeves become short enough and the chemise can get turned into a shirt with a new skirt added. The child has grown from a size 5T to a size 7. The surcoats have an extra inch hand sewn into the shoulder seams and a double hem. Again the garments have lasted for two summers, which was the hope. This puts them on the every other year replacement cycle, which is great as it does not line up with my son's garb replacement. If I get

ambitious I will cut the surcoats in half at the bottom of the waist and add a longer skirt for a parti-color look.

The extant garments drawn below have solved the problem of a sloppy neckline with a different cut. I will be making the next batch of garments in this style. Keyhole necklines are easy to make and do not fall off shoulders. The surcoat appears to be slightly fitted in the chest area with fullness added in the sides with a gore. Again this is a very easy construction technique. The under tunic has extra long arms compared to the body. This way the child can grow and alterations will not be needed.



Tunic from Dona Maria, 1235. It was a rare cotton shirt or tunic, with a red silk herring bone stitch on the seams.

[http://historiaviva.org/vestmenta/s13\\_maria\\_ajuar\\_en.shtml](http://historiaviva.org/vestmenta/s13_maria_ajuar_en.shtml)



Sideless surcoat from Dona Maria made from yellow silk, with vertical bands of gold thread, lined with rabbit fur. [http://historiaviva.org/vestmenta/s13\\_maria\\_ajuar\\_en.shtml](http://historiaviva.org/vestmenta/s13_maria_ajuar_en.shtml)



Friend's daughter at age 5, almost 6



Friend's daughter age 5, almost



Sloppy shoulder problem, age 4 years almost 5



Girdle books and scribal boxes are court only toys. They are freshly restocked with stickers and crayons before every court.



Pants or no pants, that is the question...

Here are several links to pictures online. They are pictures of children in clothing or playing with toys. Many of the links were found via Mistress Karen Larsdatter (<http://www.larsdatter.com/index.html>) or Lady Briaca's site (<http://www.briaca.com/art/children.html>)

Atlantian Arts and Sciences links in the area of children's and infant's clothing <http://moas.atlantia.sca.org/wsnlinks/index.php?action=displaycat&catid=337>

This is a picture of the Herjolfsnes 44 children's dress. It can also be found in the *Woven into the Earth* book in much greater detail. <http://www.forest.gen.nz/Medieval/articles/garments/H44/H44.html>

Great picture of a little boy with a pull toy. [http://utu.morganlibrary.org/medren/single\\_image2.cfm?imagenamem1001.048rb.jpg&page=ICA000121067](http://utu.morganlibrary.org/medren/single_image2.cfm?imagenamem1001.048rb.jpg&page=ICA000121067)

Burial clothing of Dona Maria. This is what I have based the sideless surcoat pattern off of, even though it is a little early in 1235. <http://museodeltraje.mcu.es/index.jsp?id=319&ruta=3,316>

The Manesse Codex is a great manuscript for pictures. It is from 1300-1315 look for folio 97 and 136. <http://www.manesse.de/index.php>

The Romance of Alexander has a little puppet theater in the marginalia. <http://image.ox.ac.uk/show?collection=bodleian&manuscript=msbodl264>





Every year we take a family picture at the Pennsic rune stone.  
This is my oldest son at age 4



These are the boys at ages 3 and 5. Note the light blue G-63. It fit both boys at very different ages.

## Bibliography

Handout from Baroness Adriana la Bretonne "63 Things to do with a G-63"

Deuchler, Florens. The University History of Art and Architecture- Gothic, New York: Universe Books, 1973.

Endrei and Zolnay, Fun and Games in Old Europe, Hungary: Zrinyi Printing House, 1988.

Evans, Joan ed., The Flowering of the Middle Ages. London: Thames and Hudson, 1998.

Hallam, Elizabeth ed., The Plantagenet Encyclopedia, New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990.

Handout from James de Bibleworth "Men's Clothing Styles 1st to 3rd Quarter of the 15th century Hose, Doublets, and Gowns."

Fraser, Antonia. A History of Toys. New York: Spring Books, 1966.

Orme, Nicholas, Medieval Children, London: Yale University, 2001,

Ostergard, Else. Woven into the Earth. Aarhus University Press, 2004

Web Art Gallery

If you need help or have questions feel free to email me at [Pellison@Galtham.org](mailto:Pellison@Galtham.org)