Sewing Skills Checklist

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION • C0677E



INTRODUCTION

Learning to sew is fun and rewarding! As with most things, the more sewing you do, the more skilled you'll become. Some techniques you will do frequently and feel confident of your mastery of them. However, sewing is an art where you will never learn all there is to know. What is important is to continue learning new skills and techniques.

This publication is designed for 4-H'ers enrolled in the Clothing Program. Its purpose is to help you plan sewing activities to constantly stretch your sewing abilities. Numerous sewing skills are listed, beginning with the basics and moving toward the more advanced. It is divided to correspond to the three Washington 4-H Clothing and Textiles projects: "Fun With Clothes," pg. 2; "Clothing Capers," pg.7; and "Clothes That Click," pg. 15. Keep the Sewing Skills Checklist as part of your records throughout your 4-H sewing years. By maintaining this record, you will see your sewing progress.

Using the Checklist is a 3-step process:

- 1. At the beginning of each 4-H year, go through the list of skills for the project you are enrolled in. Place a check (✓) in the "Skills I Know" column for all the skills listed you feel confident in doing.
- Choose skills you want to learn or improve in the current 4-H year. Discuss these with your 4-H leader and parents. Determine what garments/items you will sew to learn those skills. Then check (✓) the skills you want to learn in the "Skills to Learn or Improve" column.
- 3. Once a skill is learned, place the date in the "New Skills Learned" column. You can also make a note of the sewing project where you applied the skill.

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Use self-bias		1	9/98 (red checked jumper)
Attach round patch pockets		✓	6/97 (green print camp shirt)

Be sure to refer to the publication, PNW0197, *Measuring Up: Quality Standards in Sewn Items*, to evaluate your newly learned skills. It lists and describes specific characteristics that can be expected in high-quality construction. To evaluate your project using PNW0197, look up the different construction techniques (listed in alphabetical order) that you used. Compare your sewn item with the listed characteristics of high-quality construction. Many techniques can produce the same result. You may want to try several techniques for the same skill and determine which you like best. All may produce quality results, but one method may be easier for you to do than another.

Looking back over what you have learned in 4-H sewing will give you a great feeling of pride. Enjoy your experiences and keep a good record of your accomplishments. This publication will help you do just that!!

HAPPY SEWING!!

CREATIVITY: SEWING SKILLS CHECKLIST

"FUN WITH CLOTHES"

Skills List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn		
Sewing Tools & Machines					
Sewing Tools Identify & use:					
Scissors/shears/pinking shears					
Pins & pin cushion					
Thimble					
Needles—hand & machine					
Marking tools					
Measuring tools—ruler, tape measure, seam gauge, etc.					
Seam ripper					
Sewing Machine Be able to:					
Name parts of the machine					
Thread machine					
Fill & insert bobbin					
Change machine needle					
Recognize balanced stitching					
Control speed					

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Control fabric while running the sewing machine			
Change the length of the straight stitch			
Change the length & width of the zigzag stitch			
Change the settings to stretch stitching			
Know the proper use of straight, basting, zigzag, & stretch stitches			
Use the seam guide on the machine			
Pivot			
Use good habits: proper lighting, good posture, clean-up skills			
	Fabric Kn	owledge 8	S Skills
Be able to recognize:			
Difference between a knit & a woven			
Solid fabric			
Print fabric			
Striped fabric			
Plaid fabric			
Lengthwise grain			
Crosswise grain			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Fabric grain by fringing fabric edge			
Bias			
Selvage			
Appropriate fabric choice for pattern			
Matching thread			
	Pattern Kı	nowledge	& Skills
Be able to:			
Select an appropriate fabric for pattern			
Lay out pattern			
Cut out pattern			
Со	nstruction	Knowled	ge & Skills
Pre-treatment/Pressing Be able to:			
Pre-treat fabric			
Press seams			
Final press			
Machine Sewing Be able to:			
Sew a straight seam			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Sew a square corner			
Sew a curved seam			
Backstitch at ends of seams			
Sew an edgestitch finish on seams			
Sew a zigzag finish on seams			
Trim seams			
Sew casing for elastic			
Machine hem			
Hand Sewing Be able to:		I	
Thread a needle			
Tie a knot			
Use a thimble			
Use a variety of hand stitches —			
Basting stitch			
Blind stitch			
Overhand stitch			
Running stitch			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Fa	abric Care	Knowledg	e & Skills
Fabric Care Be able to:			
Sew in care labels			
Replace buttons			
Repair broken seams			
	List Additi	ional Skills	Learned
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CREATIVITY: SEWING SKILLS CHECKLIST

"CLOTHING CAPERS"

If you are 9 to 11 years old and enrolled for the first time in a sewing project, you need to refer to and learn the basic sewing skills listed in the "Fun With Clothes" section of this *Sewing Skills Checklist*. As you learn the basics you can also work on the skills listed in "Clothing Capers." Remember sewing is a skill that you keep building on the more you sew. Enjoy learning by sewing!

Skills List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn		
Sewing Tools & Machines					
Sewing Machine Be able to:					
Recognize balanced tension					
Adjust upper tension					
Adjust presser foot pressure					
Recognize & use special stitches on your machine					
Use a zipper foot					
Change the light bulb					
Clean & oil machine					
List new sewing tools used:					
Serger Be able to:					
Recognize balanced tension					

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Sew a seam			
Adjust tension			
Adjust stitch width & length			
Change needles			
Clean & oil machine			
	Pattern Kı	nowledge	& Skills
Pattern Knowledge & Skills Be able to:			
Take body measurements			
Determine pattern size & type			
Compare body measurements to pattern measurements			
Determine the amount of fabric needed to construct an item			
Use pattern pieces & markings			
Lay out pattern on fabric using pattern guide			
Pin & cut out garment			
Transfer pattern markings to fabric using a variety of methods —			
Marking pens			
• Pins			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Tailor's chalk			
Tailor's tacks			
Tracing wheel & carbon paper			
Follow pattern guide			
F	abric Knov	wledge & S	Selection
Fabric Knowledge Recognize:			
Fiber to yarn to fabric relationship			
Differences between knit, woven, & non-woven fabrics			
Fiber content & characteristics			
Weaves—plain, satin, twill			
Fabric finishes			
Suitable fabric choice for pattern			
Notions & trim needed			
Differences between sewing with a knit & a woven			
Information found on labels & hang tags			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Co	nstruction	Knowled	ge & Skills
Construction Be able to:			
Pre-treat fabric & notions			
Fit by making minor pattern adjustments			
Staystitch with grain of fabric			
Use a variety of interfacings —			
Non-fusible			
• Fusible			
Machine baste			
Use different seam constructions —			
• Plain			
Flat felled			
• French			
Stretch stitch			
Use different seam finishes on a plain seam —			
Clean finish (turn under edge & stitch)			
• Pinked			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
• Zigzag			
Reinforce seams			
Trim & grade enclosed seams			
Clip inward curve			
Stitch darts			
Apply facings			
Understitch			
Stitch in the ditch			
Apply lapped zipper			
Apply centered zipper			
Apply an invisible zipper			
Construct kimono sleeves			
Put in set-in sleeves			
Reinforce sleeve seam			
Apply cuffs			
Make sleeve plackets			
Attach a collar			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Point turning			
Understitching			
Make gathers & ruffles			
Apply yokes			
Attach waistband			
Attach patch pockets with rounded corners			
Attach patch pockets with square corners			
Construct belt & belt loops			
Topstitch			
Attach fasteners —			
Buttons with built-in shank			
Buttons with thread shank			
Hooks & eyes			
• Snaps			
Decorative snaps			
Nylon hook & loop tape			
Use hem variations —			
Hem by hand			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Machine hem using regular stitch			
Machine hem using blind hem			
Apply trim			
Use self-made bias			
Make pants —			
Reinforce crotch seam			
Apply fly zipper			
Use fly front guard			
Sew stretchy knits —			
Construct seams with stretch			
Construct seams for stability (taping)			
Apply ribbing			
Stitch in the ditch			
Pressing —		1	
Press as you sew			
Press darts			
• Final press			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
	Care Kno	owledge &	Skills
Care Be able to:			
Sew in care label			
Repair seams, hems, replace missing fasteners			
Sort clothes for laundry			
Operate washer & dryer			
ı	ist Additio	onal Skills	Learned

CREATIVITY: SEWING SKILLS CHECKLIST

"CLOTHES THAT CLICK"

If you are 12 to 18 years old and enrolled for the first time in a sewing project, you need to refer to and learn the basic sewing skills listed in the "Fun With Clothes" and "Clothing Capers" sections of this *Sewing Skills Checklist*. As you learn the basics you can also work on the skills listed in the "Clothes That Click." Remember sewing is a skill that you keep building on the more you sew. Enjoy learning by sewing!

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn				
	Sewing Tools & Machines						
Sewing/Pressing Tools Identify & Use:							
Rotary cutter & mats							
Pattern weights							
Specialized rulers							
Correct pins for fabric type							
Types of hand sewing needles —							
• Sharps							
Betweens							
Crewels							
A variety of marking pens & pencils							
Pressing cloth							
Pressing ham							
Press mitt							

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Seam roll			
Sleeve board			
Point press			
Pounding block (clapper)			
List other sewing tools you used:			
Sewing Machine Be able to:			
Select the correct needle, size, & type —			
Universal			
Ball point			
• Twin			
Topstitching			
Stretch			
Leather/wedge			
• Wing			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Adjust upper & lower tension			
Use special stitches for seam finishes			
Machine blind hem			
Use the multiple zigzag features			
Use stretch stitch			
Use decorative stitches			
Identify & use a variety of sewing machine feet/attachments —			
Straight stitch foot			
Zigzag foot (multi-purpose foot)			
Zipper foot			
Satin stitch foot			
Blind hem foot			
Roller foot			
Pin tucking foot			
• Ruffler			
Quilting foot			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Serger Be able to:			
Sew a balanced stitch			
Finish seams			
Use decorative threads			
Change feet/plates/stitches for different applications —			
• Flatlock			
Rolled edge			
Specialty feet			
Secure the thread tails using different methods —			
Seam sealant			
Knot & clip			
Thread back through stitching			
Use serger gathering			
Read & follow the instruction manual			
	Pattern Kı	nowledge	& Skills
Pattern Knowledge & Skills Be able to:			
Select the correct pattern size			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Know ease requirements			
Make necessary pattern alterations			
Lay out a pattern "with nap"			
Lay out a pattern "without nap"			
Transfer pattern markings to fabric			
Combine different patterns into one garment			
Use a multi-sized pattern			
Use a master pattern (needs to be traced)			
Use a pattern without seam allowances printed on the pattern			
Use a pattern with 1/4" seam allowances			
F	abric Knov	wledge & S	Selection
Know the difference be- tween fibers & fabrics			
Understand fiber characteristics			
Use fabrics made from a variety of fibers (either as blends or 100%):			
Acetate			
Acrylic			
Cotton			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Linen			
Lyocell			
Nylon			
Polyester			
Ramie			
Rayon			
Silk			
Spandex			
Specialty hair fibers			
Triacetate			
Wool			
Use a variety of fabrics:		'	
Design fabrics —			
• Stripes			
• Plaids			
• 1-way prints			
Border print designs			
Pre-shirred fabric			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Pre-pleated fabric			
Pile & napped fabrics —			
Terry cloth			
• Corduroy			
Velvet/velveteen			
• Velour			
Leather/leather-like			
Suede/suede-like			
Fur/fake fur			
• Fleece			
Brushed fabric			
Chenille			
• Felt			
Melton			
Outerwear —			
Outdoor nylons			
– Ripstop			
– Taffeta			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Coated fabric			
• Canvas			
Pack cloth			
Reversible quilted fabric			
1-sided quilted fabric			
• Vinyl			
Waterproof laminate			
Ski-stretch			
Stretch fabric inserts			
Knits —			
Single knit			
Double knit			
• Tricot			
Interlock knit			
Sweater knit			
• Rib knit			
Raschel knit			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Stretch velour			
Design double knit (jacquard)			
Stretch terry knit			
Tubular knit			
Specialty Fabrics —			
• Crepe			
• Charmeuse			
• Satin			
• Brocade			
Eyelet embroidery			
Metallic cloth			
Beaded or sequined fabric			
• Faille			
Georgette			
• Organdy			
• Lamé			
• Moiré			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
• Tulle			
• Lace			
Miscellaneous Fabrics —			
Batiste			
Broadcloth			
• Challis			
Chambray			
• Chino			
• Chinz			
• Denim			
Double-cloth/double-face			
• Duck			
• Flannel			
Gabardine			
• Noil			
Oxford			
Polished cloth			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
• Poplin			
• Pique			
Quilted fabric			
Recycled fabric			
Seersucker			
• Shantung			
Tapestry			
List additional fabrics studied & used:			
Use a variety of interfacings:			
Sew-in interfacing —			
• Woven			
Non-woven			
• Knit			
Fusible interfacing —			
• Woven			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Non-woven			
• Knit			
Low temperature			
Weft-insertion			
Warp-insertion			
Fusible web			
Use a variety of specialty threads:			
Metallic/silver/foil			
Pearl			
Rayon			
Topstitching/buttonhole twist			
Transparent (nylon filament)			
Yarn			
Со	nstruction	Knowled	ge & Skills
Pressing Skills Be able to:			
Finger press			
Use a press cloth			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Use a variety of pressing tools (refer to previous tool section)			
List additional pressing skills used:			
Construction Skills Be able to:			
Use different seam construction methods —			
Double-stitched			
• Lapped			
Mock fell (welt)			
• Serged			
Use a variety of seam finishes/treatments —			
Bound			
Hong Kong			
• Sear			
• Serge			
3-step zigzag			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Reinforce			
Reduce bulkiness in seams			
List other seams or seam finishes used:			
Use a variety of darts —			
Straight dart			
Curved dart			
2-ended dart			
Dart in heavy fabric (trimmed to eliminate bulk)			
Dart in sheer fabric			
Use a variety of necklines —			
Round neckline			
– Ribbing			
– Turned & stitched			
– Bias bound			
Center front slit			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
– Faced			
Square neckline		I.	
– Faced			
Mitered corners			
V-neckline		I.	
– Faced			
– Ribbing			
Tabs & tab openings			
Tie necklines			
Bateau			
– Faced			
– Turned & stitched			
Keyhole			
1-piece neck & armhole facing			
List other necklines used:			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Construct & attach different collars —			
Mock turtleneck			
Turtleneck			
• Cowl			
• Square			
• Pointed			
• Shawl			
Scalloped			
Sailor collar			
Shirt-style collar with band			
Shirt-style collar with separate band			
Ruffle collar			
Stand-up mandarin collar			
Tie collar			
1-piece flat collar			
• Hood			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
List other collars used:			
Use a variety of fasteners —			
Buttons & buttonholes			
• Eyelets			
Hanging snaps			
Self-fabric loops			
Snap tape			
Thread loops			
Covered buttons			
Covered snaps			
Toggles & frogs			
List other fasteners used:			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Use a variety of pocket applications —			
Curved or shaped			
Mitered corners			
• Bias			
Pocket flaps			
• Slot			
• Inseam			
• Lined			
• Welt			
Kangaroo			
List other pockets used:			
Use a variety of sleeve & armhole finishes —			
• Raglan			
• Drop			
Circle or bell sleeve			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Designer gathered sleeve			
Peasant gathered sleeve			
Ruffle sleeve			
Faced armhole			
Bias bound armhole			
Square armhole facing			
List other sleeves used:		l	
Use a variety of waistline treatments —			
Drawstring casing			
Contoured waistband			
Faced waistband			
Pleated waistline			
Eased waistline			
Straight yokes			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Shaped yokes			
Waistline stay			
List other waistline or waistband treatments:			
Use a variety of hems —			
Bias or circular hem			
Slit or shirttail hem			
Faced hem			
• Fused hem			
Bound hem			
Ribbing used at hemline			
Catch stitch by hand			
Slip stitch by hand			
Narrow, hand-rolled hem			
Narrow, machine-rolled hem			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Machine lettuce edge			
Machine picot edge			
Tailor's hidden hem			
Serger finished hem			
Turned & stitched hem			
Bands on jackets or tops			
Use interfacing in a hem			
List other hems used:			
Use a variety of cuffs —		l	
• Flat, 1-piece			
• Flat, 2-piece			
Cuff with ruffles			
Fake cuff			
Fitted or shaped			
• French			
Buttoned			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
List other cuffs used:			
Use a variety of zipper applications —			
Corded zipper			
Decorative zipper			
Exposed zipper			
Zipper with wind flap			
Exposed zipper with facing			
Exposed zipper with collar			
Exposed zipper with ribbing			
Hand-picked zipper			
Separating zipper			
Zipper in a pocket			
List other zippers used:			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Miscellaneous construction details —			
Insert a lining:			
– Skirt			
– Pants			
– Jacket			
– Dress			
Hand-sewn topstitch			
Machine quilting			
 Free motion (with feed dogs down or covered) 			
 Machine guided (with feed dogs moving the fabric) 			
Hand quilting			
Hand embroidery			
Machine embroidery			
– Free motion			
 Hoop (as in an attachment to a computerized machine) 			
Machine decorative stitching			
Make a reversible item			
Recyle old fabric into new garment or item			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Use a variety of details or embellishments —			
Appliqué			
Bias design work			
Braid			
Button decor			
Cobweb lace			
Couching			
Crazy patchwork			
"Crinkle & wrinkle"			
• Fringe			
• Godets			
• Gusset			
• Insets			
Metal studs			
Mitered corners			
Pinweaving			
Piping			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
• Pleats			
Rickrack			
Sawtooth edge finish			
Shirt yokes			
Skirt/pant yokes			
Stitch & slash			
Trims applied by hand			
Trims applied by machine			
• Tucks			
List other details used:			
Sew the following, using various construction skills:		I	
Jacket			
Coat			
Shirt			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
Vest			
Blouse			
Тор			
Shorts			
Culottes/split skirt			
Swimsuit			
1-piece dress			
Formal wear			
Accessories			
Costume			
List other garments sewn:			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn
List other sewing projects (quilts, home/room accessories, bags, home decor, etc.):			
	Cana Ka	andadaa S	- Claille
	Care Kno	owledge &	T SKIIIS
Care Be able to:			
Identify & use correct care method for each item sewn			
Store off-season clothes			
Repair or patch items			
List items repaired:			

Skill List	Skills I Know	Skills to Learn or Improve	New Skills Learned Date/Item Sewn	
List Additional Skills Learned				



Revised by: Kay Hendrickson, Area Family Living Agent, WSU Benton/Franklin County; Jan Hiller, 4-H Youth Development Specialist, WSU Pullman; Nancy Mordhorst, 4-H Program Coordinator, WSU Pullman.

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