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Living

Warm up the kids with uniquely Asheville fashions

by Lockie Hunter, Special to the Citizen-Times
published January 14, 2008 12:15 am

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As the cold winds bawl and the frost is upon the morning grass, we begin to prepare our children's wardrobe to be both functional and clever in this upcoming winter season. With the nippy season at our back door, how do we ready our children for the winter months safely and fashionably?

When the thermometer dips, don't despair. Dress your children stylishly and warmly in a uniquely Asheville manner with inviting hand knits, colors and patterns as unique and multihued as our city.



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credit: Lockie Hunter, Special to the Citizen-Times
Pascale Hunter models the bright bold colors and patterns from Bon Bebe.

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Let it snow ... baby

"It's very important to keep your children bundled — not to keep them from getting sick, as unfortunately, it won't — but more so to keep them comfortable during the cold season," says Dr. Gretchen Brown of Asheville Pediatrics. "We love to bundle, especially babies. It makes them feel happier."

So how to bundle up baby in style? We turned to Amy Leslie from Heaven Rains Boys and Girls (1 Page Ave., Asheville, 252-1484)

for some advice.

"Knits are becoming really popular this year, especially hand knits," she says.

A survey of this children's shop revealed well-appointed knits in a variety of colors and sizes, many of them locally made. A hand woven sweater by a local designer may set your child's wardrobe apart, keep them warm and snug, and support a local artist.

"People are going back to the basics," Leslie says, "bright colors, handmade, things that are a little more unusual. Microfiber soft things are becoming popular as well."

Baby may feel cozier in some of the new micro-fiber offerings from the store.

"Babies lose a lot of heat, especially from their heads," Brown says, "so it is important to keep a hat on a baby, even indoors."

We found a collection of microfiber, luxurious baby layette offerings at Heaven Rains.

The key word is cozy, brushed cottons, inviting fabrics and cotton/cashmere blends for baby.

The preschooler

Preschool children, much like babies, tend to lose heat from their head and limbs, so keeping the extremities warm is important as well.

"A lot of kids have trouble with gloves with fingers, so mittens are easier, and it helps them with their independence," Brown says.

For the toddler and preschooler, Bon Bebe (1950 Hendersonville Road, Asheville, 687-7200) offers matching hat, scarf and mitten sets, in festive holiday styles with imprints of snowmen, penguins and other winter designs.

"They are all machine washable with a fleece inlay," says Bon Bebe's Melody Fox, "and the inlays go over their little ears as well, so they stay really warm."

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We found personality-plus in the lines offered at Bon Bebe.

Striped tights married with floral knit sweaters and playful flared pants paired with long patterned jackets, all come in a variety of fabrics from welcoming knitwear to plush fleece to cotton.

“The shabby chic and bohemian looks are coming to Asheville due to the diversity and growth in the area,” Fox says.

The idea of patterning many colors and fabric into one outfit may appeal to the tween age as well.

“Tights are in,” Fox added, “not necessarily matching. Color is really big. Boy things tend to stay a little more traditional, but even boy’s outfits are adding color.”

Bundle up baby in this matching bed jacket and cap from Bon



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