

## Tips and Tricks For Children's Clothes

1) Make sure you talk to the person who will be quilting the quilt if you have any questions about the use of an item in the quilt. For example, if you have a concern about the thickness of a logo or patch on the shirt or the thickness of the collar you must consult with the person who will be quilting it. If you don't do this ahead of time you may be surprised with a fee for custom quilting when it could have been avoided if you had taken the time to ask.

2) I use Bosal 328 – Tricot, Fusible Knit to stabilize any knit items or anything that will fray. I use this particular brand for its softness after application. It does not stiffen up. Check your local quilt shop or my web store at [www.HappyMemoriesQuilts.com](http://www.HappyMemoriesQuilts.com)

3) I use SoftFuse, which is a two sided fusible, for applique. I use it to attach shirts, onesie's, etc. to the blocks and to anchor down any ruffles or pockets. I use this particular brand for its softness after application. It does not stiffen up. Check your local quilt shop or my web store at [www.HappyMemoriesQuilts.com](http://www.HappyMemoriesQuilts.com)

4) IMPORTANT - If using another stabilizer CHECK IT FIRST on a small piece of the fabric you are going to use to make sure it does what you want it to do and is not too stiff. Just because it is soft in the store does not mean it will stay soft when the glue is activated.

5) Use an applique pressing sheet to protect your ironing board from the glue of any stabilizer or fusible and also from the paint from the shirt logos/designs you are ironing. When you are applying the stabilizer, you are heating the shirt and, therefore, the paint that is used in the design on the shirt. When it gets heated it will melt and transfer onto your ironing board or ironing cloth. By using the applique pressing sheet you can protect both your ironing board and the shirt design from damage. The size I use is 18"X20" as it is the perfect size for t-shirts and large items.

6) You can mix fabrics in your quilts. Just make sure you stabilize any fabric that has a stretch to it. Also, make sure if you want to be able to wash the quilt you do not put in fabrics that should be dry cleaned only. Some of the fabrics and items in these kinds of quilts are better off just aired out and touched up, not washed or dry cleaned. This is why they are better as a wall hanging, not a quilt that will be used a lot.

7) You can keep the collars of the shirts in your blocks to add some personality. Mix it up and have some blocks with collars and some without. If you have a cute little boy's dress shirt, polo shirt, or sports jersey check out

my dress shirt and/or sports jersey online class for directions on how to keep the collars in the blocks if you don't want to applique them and want to make a whole block.

8) To reattach buttons to shirts or add other items, such as overalls, to the quilt after quilting use a curved needle as it makes it much easier to do.

9) Add embroideries of dates, places, people, songs etc., to your quilts when needed or desired to make your memories complete.

10) When putting a dress or skirt in your quilt make sure you anchor the ruffle down with SoftFuse and then stitch down any ruffles with a straight stitch to stop them from being caught on the foot of the longarm machine.

11) Check out all your blocks to make sure that any area that can be caught by the longarm foot is stitched down.