

# Parents, Kids, and Fashion: “We will Survive!”

Janet Scharbor

As a parent, how do you deal with current fashions for children and young adults? This has to be one of the hardest things for parents to deal with. There are so many influences from the music and television industry, not to mention the peer pressure. Parents have trouble knowing when to draw the line and tell their children, “No, that’s inappropriate.”

The influences of the music industry and television pretty much set the trend in the fashion world for children. For example, I raised three boys, and they all loved to listen to rap music. I don’t know if everybody has seen what the rappers wear, but it is not a pretty sight to me. The baggy jeans, big oversized shirts, and hats worn



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backwards were their style. I would battle with my boys every day. “Pull up your pants!” “Turn your hat around!” “Tuck in your shirt!”

When it came to shoes, I needed a second job to pay for them. The boys wanted name brand shoes that were as wild as they could be. I would point to a reasonably priced pair of shoes and say, “Look at these.” But I might as well have been an alien because they looked at me like I was crazy. What do I know? I’m just a mom.

It’s hard to know when to say no. Kids have their own style, and I encourage them to go with it if they can stay within a certain boundary. I feel it is important to have your own style or fashion because it makes you who you are. On the other hand, when I saw my boys in some fashions I wanted to pretend I did not know them. And why not? They did that to me all the time.

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Fashion was a tough issue with my boys when they were growing up. I guess they made it through okay and so did I. As long as we have television, music, and peer pressure there will be conflicts between parents and children. Take it from me, we will survive.

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Janet Scharbor and her husband have four children and six grandchildren. She is currently attending the Adult Education Center in Fort Smith, AR, where she is retraining for a better career.