

Suited for the Swim

by Allyn Rice

SWIMSUITS are getting rave notices this season, both in and out of water. In top form for active swimming, one-piece suits have little or no adornment. Whether in bold patterns or stripes, they're equally pretty at the beach or pool-side on sun-worshipping damsels. And for those who like their sun in smaller doses, there are some dashing hooded slippers of knitted cotton from which to choose.

Go native with bold tropical flowers printed on cotton in Ceeb of Miami's one-piece halter-top swimsuit (\$14). The hat has matching snap-in snood (\$4).

All prices are approximate



is nearly always eager for more freedom than he can handle. But when he adds, "You always say 'No' before hearing my side," we may well ask if this child is not being invited to fight for independence instead of being released to take as much as he is ready for.

On the other hand, the child who goes too far with independent decision may feel pressed by comparison with others. The case of Susie, who dyed her hair without consultation at home, is an example. Her cousin Doris suddenly became a big girl and a beauty at 14. "Doris is a knockout. No wonder that house swarms with boys," said Susie's father. So Susie, still a little girl at 14, tried to keep up and win her father's admiration by being a popular knockout, too.

Our task in guiding children toward independence is to make each one feel adequate and valued for himself as he is—not for his dexterity, quick wit, special talents, or good looks. It is a serious handicap to any child to grow up feeling unsuccessful because lovingly ambitious parents have urged him to competition beyond his native talents or degree of maturity.

When Independence Gets Out of Hand

There are many times in each child's life, from the end of infancy through the teens, when a clash of wills can be resolved only by a direct order or a positive "No."

Teddy, 13, had been hitchhiking home from school with strangers for two weeks before he casually mentioned the matter at home.

This was a clear case where "You must not do that!" was a necessary order. Louise, 10, must be pulled up short and forbidden to light the outdoor grill and toast marshmallows in the absence of grownups.

Both children argued heatedly, "All the other kids do it!" but both gave in with something very close to relief when their parents made the risks clear.

The growing child should have as much latitude to exercise independence as possible, but he senses it when he is going too far. And he feels sustained and protected, rather than thwarted, by firm parental control in the areas where he might endanger himself or others, or inconvenience the whole family when he considers only his own desires.

Our goal in guiding our children toward independence is their complete acceptance of responsibility for their own acts, and full regard for the rights of others. These conditions are essential for their fair amount of freedom. If we teach this by daily example in all of our dealings with children, they learn surely and steadily that personal independence for all is possible only in the framework of genuine interdependence that is the strength of the family—as well as the strength of democracy.

In an early issue of *Family Weekly*, Mrs. Gruenberg will discuss another aspect of independence: "Do You Let Your Child Make Enough Mistakes?"



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