

The Baby Gap Syndrome

I wish I had a dollar for every time that I have said, "Please send your child to school in clothes you don't care about. We can encourage, demand, threaten, bribe, write notes home, scream, post signs and tell parents until we are blue in the face of the importance of wearing "play clothes" to school, but often to no avail! Many children are still coming to school suffering from what I call the "baby gap" syndrome!

And it affects the children the worst. Over the years I have seen children cry because they got a little bit of paint on their shirt and have witnessed emotional breakdowns on the playground because they got mud on their new sneakers, have had children tell me to throw their "dirty shirt away" so that mommy won't be angry, and have children announced in school that they aren't allowed to paint anymore because it "ruins my clothes." I have seen children proudly take home their art work that they spent hours on creating, designing and painting, only to be asked, "Why are you so dirty" or to be told with a heavy sigh. "Oh no, there is paint on your new shirt!"

What kinds of messages are being sent to the children when there is so much emphasis on their clothes and shoes? Can a shirt really be more important than the opportunity to engage in a new creative experience?

Please feel free to stop by our art room in room nine and witness the creative experiences for yourself that are happening at HERJC. We are encouraging a high level of creativity in our art classes as well as in our classrooms. Help us battle the "baby gap" syndrome and let your children know how proud you are of what they are accomplishing in school....and please....send them to school in appropriate clothing.