

Tabby Jacket Sewing Schedule: In Four Kid-Friendly Sessions

We recommend four 1 to 1½ hour sessions when sewing with kids. Be sure to check out the list of sewing skills recommended for this project on page 14-15 of the instruction booklet and perhaps precede this project with some time getting acquainted at the sewing machine. Consistently use the same machine to minimize the learning curve for your young sewist.

Session 1

1. Choose fabric and take a look at the pattern.
2. Determine the size to be stitched and cut out or trace off the pattern in that size, including the notches and markings.
3. Pre-wash the fabric.
4. Review the skills for operating the sewing machine.
5. Make some samples of seams, checking for an accurate $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance and ease with backstitching at the beginning and ending of each step. Practice adding gathers to a curved sleeve cap.

Session 2

1. Practice safe ironing skills while pressing the pre-washed fabric.
2. Prepare a clean cutting surface and position the fabric on the surface.
3. Check out the suggested layouts on page 4 of the instruction booklet.
4. Position the pattern pieces and pin each one in place.
5. Cut out each piece carefully with scissors that are comfortable in young hands.
6. Be sure to cut the notches away from the cutting line.
7. Take a break from cutting and use scraps to make more test samples of seams.
8. Mark the dots near the hem of the center front line, front band, side panels and top of the sleeve.

Session 3

1. Begin construction, remembering to press each seam as directed before moving to the next step.
2. Pin the seams so the stitching progresses smoothly.
3. Stop and make samples if any step feels scary or complicated, especially gathering in sleeves.
4. Try to get to Step 5: Test Fit during this session.

Session 4

1. Interface the band.
2. Follow the directions through to the end of the booklet to complete construction.
3. Be sure to emphasize pressing well between each section.
4. Practice top stitching, which is used to anchor the band and create the hems.
5. Discuss closures if desired.
6. Plan for a new project, maybe a vest or a jacket that incorporates the fun pocket and cuff details.