

Montessori Child's Apron

by Meg McElwee

a Montessori By Hand original pattern



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A beautifully made, well-fitting apron makes all the difference in the world for three to six year-olds. A special apron for each activity in the classroom or the home makes the child feel that what she is doing is important – that she is “a big kid.” Wearing an apron while preparing food, cleaning, watering plants, and creating art provides the additional advantage of keeping clothes clean and dry.

This apron pattern is created with the 3-6 year-old Montessori child in mind. It features an elastic neck strap that fits easily over a child’s head, even while wearing ponytails. A Velcro waist strap is easy for young children to manage. Since the child needs no help from an adult to put on or take off the apron, it fosters independence and contributes to confidence and increased self-esteem.

A sturdy, fully-lined construction with reinforced seams means that the apron can withstand many years of classroom or home usage. Toss it in the washer and dryer with no worries.

Materials and Supplies

- ½ yard 100 % cotton fabric
- 15 ¼” of ¾” wide elastic
- 2” of ¾” wide Velcro in your color of choice
- color-coordinated thread
- safety pin
- scissors
- pins
- turning tool such as a knitting needle
- ruler
- one page of newsprint for drafting the pattern pieces
- pen

Conventions

A 1/2” seam allowance is used unless otherwise noted. The seam allowance is included in the templates.

*Note that the figures are not drawn to scale.

Please read through all instructions before you start sewing. Have fun!

Main Body and Lining
Template



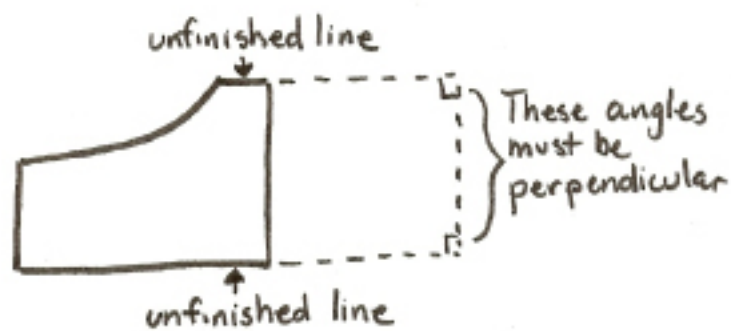
Prepare the fabric for sewing

Wash, dry, and press the fabric before using. This is an essential step! If you forget to wash and dry the fabric, your apron will end up looking quite wacky due to shrinkage!

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Make the pattern pieces

1.) Cut out the provided "main body and lining template." With the help of your ruler and pen, trace the template onto the newsprint, then extend each unfinished line by 9" and join these two lines as follows:



2.) Cut and label as shown:



- 3.) From the remaining newsprint, cut:
- (1) rectangle measuring 16" x 3" for the waist strap
 - (1) rectangle measuring 20" x 3" for the neck strap

Cutting instructions

1.) With right sides facing, fold the fabric in half lengthwise. Use the following diagram to place the pattern pieces. Note that you will be cutting two main body pieces on the fold, one for the exterior of the apron and one for the matching lining. This pattern assumes you are using the same fabric for the exterior and the lining, but alternatively you could use two different fabrics.

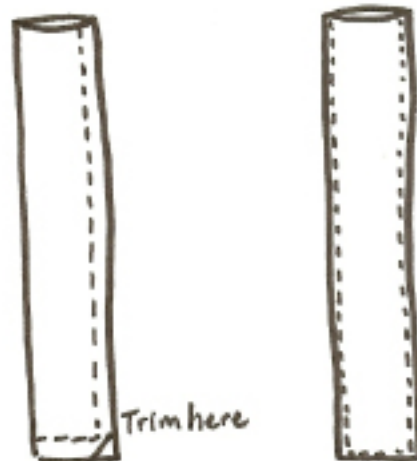


2.) Unfold the fabric and cut one waist strap and one neck strap from the remaining fabric. You will now have (2) main body pieces, (1) waist strap and (1) neck strap. Label the waist strap and neck strap with masking tape if it will help you remember which is which.

Sew the waist strap

1.) Fold the waist strap in half lengthwise with right sides facing. Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew along the long edge and one of the short edges, backstitching at each end. Trim one corners as shown:

2.) With the help of your turning tool, turn the waist strap right side out and press. Now, along each of the three finished sides, topstitch very close to the edge.



Waist strap continued

3.) Separate the Velcro. Place the rougher piece $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the finished end of the waist strap. Edge stitch along all four sides of the Velcro, stitching back and forth several times along the short edges for reinforcement. Set aside.

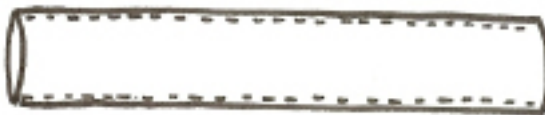


Sew the neck strap

1.) Fold the neck strap in half lengthwise, with right sides together. Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew along the long edge only, forming a tube.

2.) Turn the tube right side out and press. The seam should be along one long edge of the strap, not in the center.

3.) Topstitch along both long edges of the neck strap.



Insert elastic into the neck strap

1.) Attach the safety pin to one edge of the elastic. Push the safety pin through the neck strap tube until the other end of the elastic is even with the end of tube. (The safety pin will not yet have reached the end of the tube.) Pin this end closed, securing the elastic as well. (You can let go of the safety pin and forget about it for a bit.) With a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew the pinned end of the neck strap closed, elastic and all.

2.) Now pull that safety pin through to the other edge of the neck strap. Pin this end closed, securing the elastic as well. Make sure that the elastic is not twisted before sewing the end closed as in step 1.

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Pin the waist and neck straps to the main body piece



1.) With the right side of the body exterior facing up, pin the ends of the neck strap flush with the top edge of the exterior body. Align the neck strap ends a bit more than $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the sides of the exterior piece. Make sure the neck strap is not twisted!

2.) Pin the waist strap to the right edge of the exterior body. With the Velcro facing up, align it flush with the right edge of the main body and $\frac{1}{4}$ " down from where the curve begins. Fold up the last several inches of the waist

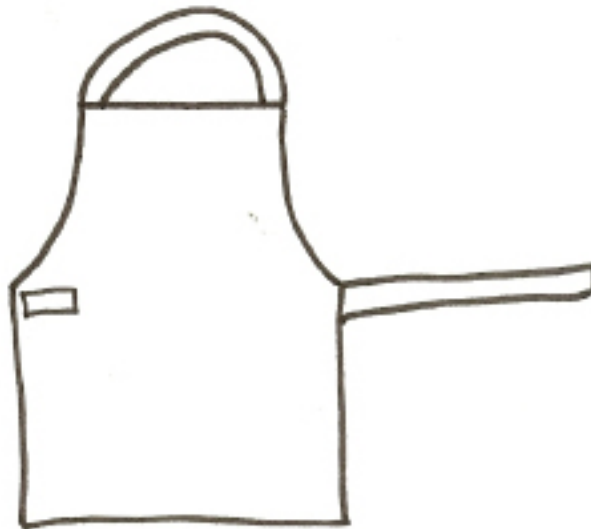
strap. Using your safety pin, secure the folded waist strap to the exterior body. This will keep it from shifting and getting caught in the seam as you sew the lining to the exterior.

Sew on the main body lining

- 1.) Take the lining piece and place it, right side down, on top of the one to which you have pinned the straps. Lining up all edges, pin the main body pieces together, sandwiching the strap ends in as you go.
- 2.) Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew along the edge of the main body pieces, pivoting on the needle when you come to a corner. Leave a 4" gap at the bottom edge of the apron for turning. Be sure to backstitch at the beginning and the end of the seam.
- 3.) Trim the corners. Turn the apron right side out, using a turning tool if necessary to shape the corners. Remove the safety pin. Press, folding under the unfinished opening.
- 4.) Topstitch along the entire edge of the main body, closing the opening as you go.

Attach the Velcro to the main body

- 1.) Lay the apron out so that the waist strap is coming off to the right. Pin the fuzzy Velcro piece to the left corner of the apron, just under the curve. Sew in place, stitching back and forth several times at each short end for reinforcement.



You're done!