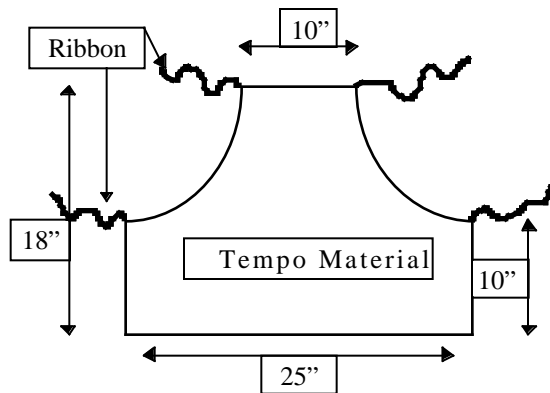


Communication Apron

The dimensions for this communication apron are designed for the average preschool child. Dimensions can be increased or decreased depending on the size of the child or adult. Tempo material is recommended for the apron because of its durability, tendency not to pill, easy use of Velcro to attach or remove objects, easy care, and washability. Tempo Material is available in a variety of colors and can be purchased from Lockfast, Inc., 10904 Deerfield Road, P.O. Box 42488, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, 800/543-7157.

Materials

Paper for making pattern
Ruler
Marker or pencil
18" x 25" Tempo Material -
Pins
Scissors
Ribbon
Velcro
Sewing Machine/Serger - optional



Procedures

1. Start with a 20" X 27" piece of paper. (Old newspaper can be pieced together to make the pattern.) With a marker/pencil and ruler, create the apron pattern by using the dimensions shown above.
2. Place and pin the pattern onto the fabric. Cut the apron from the Tempo fabric.
3. Because of Tempo's characteristics, the ends do not need to be finished. However, if desired, the ends can be finished with a Serger or sewing machine.
4. Cut 4 pieces of ribbon for the ties. Check for adjustments. Sew the ties to the neck and back area as shown in the drawing above.

A variation of this apron can be easily made. Depending on the child's needs the apron can be made into a tie or vest.

For icons or symbols for the communication apron, cut simple images from a story or theme and make them sturdy by gluing cardboard or felt to the backs. When working with small children, make the images large and simple for small hands. Then, glue small pieces of female Velcro to the backs of each image. For texture of the images, the male Velcro can be glued to the front of the images to represent texture such as dirt.

When using the communication apron, introduce the character or object by taking the image off the apron and present the image to the child. The child may enjoy playing with the figure as the activity continues. Encourage the child to talk about the image. Using a communication apron will assist a child with sequencing skills to visually or tactility follow a story. A communication apron can be easily integrated into any computer activity by capturing images from a software program for creating symbols.