

bridal attire

walk down the aisle in fuchsia pink," says Jo Gartin, author of *Jo Gartin's Weddings: An Inspiring Guide for the Stylish Bride*. It's nice for moms to be in complementing colors with the bridesmaids, as well as each other. "Moms today want something that makes them feel beautiful," says

Sabatino. "They're going outside of the beige-suit realm." Planners like Gartin are also seeing more dresses than suits for the mothers of the bride and groom with some type of sophisticated wrap or structured jacket that flows over the dress. More confident mothers-of-the-bride are asking for portrait neck-

lines, shirred midriffs, luxe fabrics, and bolder colors. Whether mom is traditional or outgoing, she can accent a demure dress with a scarf, shoes, or other accessories, or just have her dress be the talking point of her outfit.

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer

For the little ones, attire choices are less rigid. Sabatino suggests getting their outfits last, as the icing on the bridal-attire cake. "The flower girl's dress doesn't have to match exactly with the bridesmaids, but she should definitely coordinate," says Sabatino. Little girls often want to feel like princesses, so Gartin suggests frothy dresses of tulle or chiffon. And since flower girl dresses don't lean towards bright colors, you'll find lovely shades of ivory, cream, and even burgundy. "Choose a dress in ivory with an accented sash," says Gartin. "And then pair it with a Mary Jane shoe or ballet slipper in white or a coordinating color."

The ring bearer's outfit should mirror that of the groomsmen. "The Ring bearer should wear a suit," says Sabatino. "If everyone's in a tuxedo, it's nice for him to be in a tuxedo." If not, "Everyone loves seeing a little boy in a dress shirt, tie, and vest," says Gartin. "It's so cute."

From colors to accessories, your bridal party's attire should reflect your wedding's theme and style. And while you and your groom will be the center of attention, with the proper attire picks, your attendants and moms will look picture-perfect, too. ■

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