

Party Girls, Package Girls and Polinchinelle Girls' Curls

November 2010

If you are planning to style your child's hair for The Nutcracker, we would like to see it during November. Please check your schedule for the day. If you are planning to go to a hairdresser, that is not necessary. Pollys and Party children will be provided with a bow or hair accessory to wear. The front part (before ears) of their hair should be pulled up into a small ponytail on top of head – secured snugly with a coated rubber band. The rest of the hair should be rows of ringlets or sausage curls. Package girls will wear pretty hats over the curls.

If you have any questions please see Deby Barath

Here are a few suggestions for doing your child's hair for **The Nutcracker**.

- 1. Go to your favorite hairdresser if you are not comfortable doing hair. This is easy, since the performances are back to back, Thursday, Friday night, Sat mat or Sat night, Sunday matinee. Make sure your hairdresser uses lots of hair gel and strong hair sprays.*
- 2. Use sponge rollers, (see instruction below for rag curls). The key is to use a styling gel and not to put hair in rollers too wet. It will not dry. Remember to make several rows of curls not just one row.*

Rag Curls

If you'd like to make rag curls, which are softer and even gentler on the hair, you will need to make a good sized stock of rag strips to prepare. These strips are very inexpensive to make. I suggest old sheets as the perfect material to use. They are usually very lint free, usually cotton, are very soft and durable and wash very well!

Cut or rip the sheets to make 6" long by 1" wide strips of rags. This leaves you plenty of rag left to tie, no matter how large a section of hair you are rolling up. This might be the best option for very long and very thick hair. I have a supply of 40-50 of these strips handy at all times.

Now You're Ready

In the evening, before you go to bed, wash and condition your hair as you usually would. Finger pick the tangles out of your hair and allow your hair to air dry to an almost complete dryness. The dampness/dryness ratio will depend upon how thick/long your hair is. If your hair dries very slowly, please make sure that your hair is almost completely dry before proceeding. If you do not have time or do not need to wash your hair, just dampening it slightly with a sprayer or wet comb should do the trick.

Start by sectioning off your hair into small sections. This may be in only one inch sections or a bit more or less. Again it depends upon the thickness and length of your hair. Roll the section around your finger (for pin curls) or around a strip of rag. This may take a bit of practice with rag curls in order to get the hair to stay wrapped around the rag. For rag curls, you can generally make the sections as large or small as you wish as long as your strip of rag is long enough to accommodate it. Roll the section of hair up to your

scalp (tightness and diameter of roll determining your curl factor) and secure the section with pins (coated bobby or hair pins) or by tying off the rag strip with a nice bow.

Now you're ready for a good night's rest! When you awaken in the morning and you are ready to style your hair, take it down out of the rags. Your hair will be free of tangles and should have taken a very nice curl. Your hair will also feel very soft. Style as needed. There are also, currently on the market, foam rollers that you can duplicate the basic effects of a rag curl with. I recently saw them in the Harriet Carter mail catalog. They would, theoretically, also be very gentle to the hair, although quite a bit more bulky to sleep on!

Think Shirley Temple!