

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY & VALUATION

Antique Doll — Rare Collector's Example



MARKET VALUE

\$300–500

Realistic quick-sale price, private/shop market

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$550–800

Ceiling for cloth-body flirty-eye specialist collectors



16" Baby Shirley Temple Doll

*Composition Head & Limbs — Cloth Body
Flirty Sleep Eyes — Mohair Wig — Bonnet & Dress
Ideal Novelty & Toy Co. — circa 1935–1938*

◆ RARE — HARD TO FIND VARIANT ◆

16" Baby Shirley Temple Doll — Rare Cloth Body Variant

Composition Head & Limbs — Cloth Body — Flirty

Sleep Eyes — Mohair Wig

Ideal Novelty & Toy Co. — U.S.A. — circa 1935–1938

HISTORY

When seven-year-old Shirley Temple captivated Depression-era America with her debut film performances in 1934, she became the most beloved child star in Hollywood history — and the **Ideal Novelty & Toy Company** of New York was there to transform that adoration into one of the most successful licensed dolls ever made. Debuting in 1934 with Shirley's personal approval, the Ideal Shirley Temple dolls were produced in a remarkable range of sizes and body types throughout the 1930s. Among the rarest and most sought-after by today's collectors is the "**Baby Shirley Temple**" — a special infant-form variant produced from approximately 1935 to 1938 for Sears as an exclusive, featuring a **composition shoulder-plate head and limbs on a soft stuffed cloth body**, designed to be held and cuddled like a real baby rather than posed and displayed like the standard all-composition dolls. The **flirty eyes** — which move side to side as the doll is tilted, rather than simply opening and closing — are among the most prized and mechanically

delicate features in vintage doll collecting, and their presence in fully functional condition on a Baby Shirley Temple makes this an exceptionally desirable example.

The composition head faithfully reproduces Shirley's famous dimpled cheeks, open smiling mouth, and golden mohair curls — the same features that made her instantly recognizable on movie screens nationwide. This 16-inch example, dressed in its bonnet and blue crocheted sweater with original dress, shoes, and a small accessory bottle, represents one of the finest expressions of 1930s American celebrity doll craftsmanship, at a moment when the licensed-character doll industry was still in its infancy and Shirley Temple herself was arguably its single biggest commercial success story.

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Maker: Ideal Novelty & Toy Company — New York, U.S.A.
- ◆ Period: circa 1935–1938 — Sears exclusive Baby Shirley Temple variant
- ◆ Size: 16 inches tall
- ◆ Construction: Composition shoulder-plate head & limbs — soft stuffed cloth body
- ◆ Eyes: Flirty sleep eyes — move side to side — highly prized feature
- ◆ Hair: Mohair wig — blonde curls — Shirley Temple signature style
- ◆ Face: Dimpled cheeks, open smiling mouth — faithful Shirley likeness
- ◆ Clothing: Blue crocheted bonnet & sweater — white lace dress — leather shoes
- ◆ Accessory: Small bottle present
- ◆ Rarity: Cloth body Baby Shirley with flirty eyes — hard to find variant
- ◆ Condition: Very good for age — composition sound, flirty eyes functional

Collector's note: The Baby Shirley Temple with cloth body and flirty eyes is among the rarest configurations in Shirley Temple doll collecting. While the standard all-composition dolls are well known, the baby-form cloth-body variants were produced in far smaller numbers and survive in far fewer examples today, making them the subject of active competition among serious collectors. The flirty eyes mechanism requires the doll to be in excellent structural condition to function, adding significant premium value

here since it is confirmed working. The original bonnet, crocheted sweater, lace dress, and shoes all add meaningfully to value — replaced clothing would significantly reduce desirability for purist collectors. Market Value reflects realistic private-sale/shop pricing; Estimated Worth reflects the ceiling a dedicated Shirley Temple or flirty-eye specialist collector might pay for a functioning example this complete.

"America's littlest movie star, cuddled in cloth instead of composition — the rare baby version of the doll every 1930s girl wished for."

Mom's Joy Room | Morgantown, WV
Certificate Issued: July 2026 | Values based on eBay & collector market data
2024–2025

Sandy Wade, Proprietor

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