



STAYING NEUTRAL

TAKE YOUR CUES FROM ROOM TO BLOOM OWNER AND DESIGNER Ursula Wesselingh TO CREATE THE PERFECT GENDER-NEUTRAL NURSERY



World Map Poster, £25,
Mint Dipped Belly Basket, £29,
Nema Kilim Rug, £139, olliella.com



This Danish-designed graphic print will add a wonderfully nostalgic feel

Ferm Living Bear Flying A Kite Wallpaper
£59.95, nubie.co.uk



Studio Bibi Felt Mobile
£12.99, thismodernlife.co.uk



Polar Bear Knit Cushion
£39, skandivis.co.uk



Snug Studio ABC Blocks Poster
£19, thismodernlife.co.uk



Oeuf NYC Knitted Snake
£60, mollymeg.com



Sheepskin Rug
£35, johnlewis.com

There are many good reasons to go for a gender-neutral style when decorating your baby's nursery: you might not want to know the sex until the birth; you might have a girl and a boy sharing a room; or you might want to avoid gender stereotyping on more philosophical grounds. Whatever your reason, here are some tips for beautiful gender-neutral decorating:

1 Keep it simple: choose strong, clean lines for the main pieces of furniture and don't over-decorate – the simpler you keep it, the less there is to say boy or girl.

2 Reduce the room's palette to white and muted neutrals such as stone, beige or grey. This soothing background gives you the option to accessorise with more gender-specific colours once your baby is born, if you wish.

3 A neutral palette doesn't have to be boring: make sure you layer in lots of texture and natural materials such as timber, soft fabrics, linen, baskets, fluffy pillows, sheepskins or woven rugs to add depth to the scheme.

4 If you want to use more colour, mint, green and turquoise-based tones are great gender-neutral choices as they have a restful and calming effect. Yellow is wonderful for gender-neutral rooms too, but is best kept to small accents as it's a very energising colour.

5 If you want to use additional colour, choose more grown-up variations such

as grey-blue, ochre, mustard, dusky plum or midnight blue, for example.

6 Monochrome decorating is very popular right now and perfect for a gender-neutral nursery. But make sure that you add lots of texture and natural wood to create warmth when using this colour scheme.

7 Give the room personality and focus by creating an accent wall with patterned wallpaper or a bold two-tone paint effect.

8 Another way to create a focal point is to use a large vintage wardrobe painted in a statement colour. Doubling as toy storage, it keeps the room feeling calm and clutter-free.

9 Avoid themes for gender-neutral nurseries because these are usually gender led. Exceptions are nature-inspired themes, such as a woodland or animals. Other good choices are stars and clouds, or letters and numbers.

10 Use pattern sparingly and keep it to geometrics and simple shapes such as chevrons, stripes, dots and stars rather than, say, flowers or cars. Shapes are often more gender-defining than colour.

11 Shop away from the high street, where gender stereotyping still dominates children's décor. Seek out indie designers and look at Scandinavian brands, which are generally better at avoiding the boy-girl divide.

room-to-bloom.com ▶



Stars Garland
£23.49, smallable.com



Cloud Wall Light
£64, thismodernlife.co.uk



Harlequin Wallpaper
£59.95, thismodernlife.co.uk



Oeuf Mini Library
£509, huggle.co.uk



Rabbit Nature Decoration
£25, skandivis.co.uk



Mini Polka Dot Cot Quilt
£78, camomile.london



Alphabet Pebbles
£16, thismodernlife.co.uk



Mister Polar Bear Print
£12, thismodernlife.co.uk



Circus Bruno Print
£15, thismodernlife.co.uk

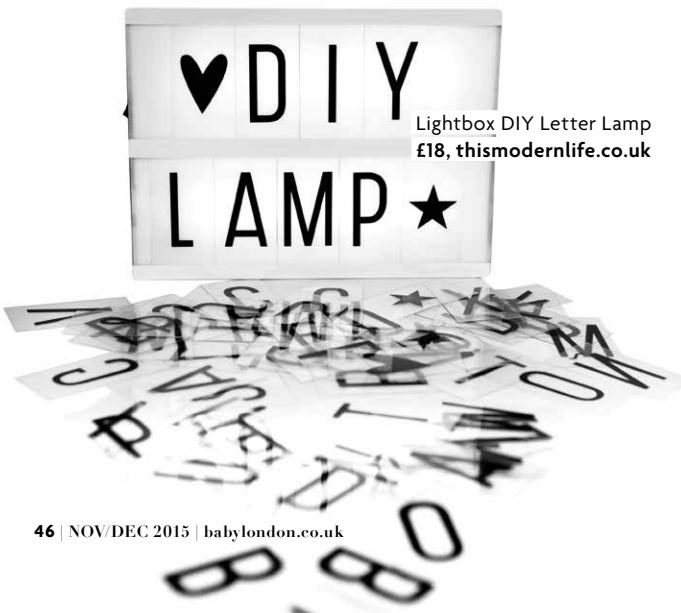


Houses Storage
£75.65, thismodernlife.co.uk

Mix and match products to create the perfect colour palette for your baby's cot



Spot Floral Cot Quilt
£78, camomile.london



Lightbox DIY Letter Lamp
£18, thismodernlife.co.uk