

A little imagination

Unleash your creative side and design a bedroom for your child that will inspire and encourage a mix of rest, play and lots of learning

FEATURE EMMA FOALE

Dressing up

Ideal for all those pretty princess dresses or fancy pirate costumes, it's wise to choose a hanging rail over a storage box so clothes can be kept uncreased and easy to reach. There's also room to keep any matching accessories and shoes on the bottom tray.

Star Bright: dressing up rail, £100; Hobby Horse, £20; Sweetheart dressing table mirror, £50; Pink Scallop curtains, from £70; Cloud rug, £100; Quilted cushions, from £18 each, all available from Great Little Trading Company

SIT AND WONDER

Right This kids bedroom has been designed by American interior design brand Emily Henderson. Editorial director Brady Tolbert offers this advice: 'If you want to make a kids room functional and versatile as they age it's essential to buy classic and well-designed furniture. You can always layer in a fun pouf, or a more playful piece of art to keep it from feeling too grown up. Most of all, have fun and don't over think it'

PHOTO DAVID TSAY

Adding some PERSONALITY

TIPS BY TRACY THOMAS, HEAD OF BUYING AT GREAT LITTLE TRADING COMPANY

- Talk to your child about their ideal room, listen to their ideas about colour and style and come to a compromise.
- Start with a neutral palette such as white or pale grey and add pops of their favourite colour with bedding, storage and accessories. Grey and white work brilliantly with pink, red, navy or brighter shades like yellow or turquoise – and accents can be changed easily when their tastes move on. Colourful cube storage brightens up a bedroom and, if siblings share, each child can have different colour cubes in which to store their belongings.
- If your child really wants a themed bedroom, don't despair. Stick to accessories such as bedding or prints to add personality and colour. Great Little Trading Company sells 'roarsome' dinosaur bedding, wall art and accessories that won't overwhelm a room.
- A desk or play table provides space to think, make, build and create. Choose one with good storage or drawers to leave the surface clutter-free.

Happy storage

If you have a smaller space then modular furniture can be a good idea as it can make the most of corners and can incorporate built-in storage too. The Nidi children's furniture by Italian company Battistella combines pops of colour in yellow and blue to catch the eye and add some fun. You can pick and choose from a range of colours and sizes to suit your room.

Right The Nidi children's bedroom collection by Battistella: Each piece is available to buy separately, but included here for £5,120 is the top and bottom bed (excluding mattresses); System 18 wardrobe; Small Wilson bedside table; Luce desk; Mari chair; cushion and rug, all from Go Modern

THROUGH THE TREES

Below Encourage storytelling and let your child's imagination flow with splashes of colour and imagery. The Forest wallpaper by Inke Helland features a woodland scene with trees, deer and rabbits. It's priced from £125 per 10m roll, available from Nubie



'If your child really wants a themed bedroom stick to accessories such as bedding or prints'





ONE UP, ONE DOWN

The Classic white bunk bed with bench, bedside table and a storage box. This setup is ideal for day and night, where siblings can sleep or use the bottom bed as a sofa – particularly good for sleepovers with friends. Prices start from £738, available from Flexa



LITTLE DREAMERS
Above and above right Children's interior designer Ursula Wesseligh from Room To Bloom has a keen eye for schemes that kids love. In the girl's room (above) there's a soft colour scheme in tonal grey with dusty pink and aubergine accents. In the boy's room (above right) Ursula has helped create lots of space to store with a feature storage wall and a bed with drawers underneath

ON A ROLL
Below right A great way to shut the light out when your child wants to sleep, choose a blind that will suit the room. The changer roller blind from Bloc Blinds allows you to swap and change fabrics when you want a new theme. Shown here in the cute Baa Baa Bunny fabric, prices start from £202

PLAYFUL PATTERN
Far right Adding colour is easy with beautiful textiles which will suit a more grown-up children's bedroom. There are five prints in The Grand Bazhaar range, from the Silk Road collection at Liberty, which feature a mix of eye-catching patterns. From £22,50 per m

Tips on adding COLOUR & PATTERN

BY URSULA WESSELINGH, CHILDREN'S INTERIOR DESIGNER, ROOM TO BLOOM

- If you want to ensure longevity of the scheme, avoid themes and aim for a neutral, calm base. A restrained colour palette will not compete with the riot of colour that children's possessions bring.
- Consider a tonal approach: painting woodwork and walls in the same or similar tones will make a room feel calmer and larger and offsets other colours beautifully.
- Add atmosphere and personality with decorative touches. They are easier to change as your children's tastes and interests evolve.
- Keep stimulating colours such as yellow and red for accents rather than walls and large pieces of furniture, as the room should enhance sleep. It makes future updates easier as well.
- Create focus by keeping pattern concentrated on one wall or on the bedding and cushions for example. Pictorial patterns tend to be age specific, so if you'd like items to last go for geometrical or classic patterns such as stars, stripes, checks, dots or florals.
- Curtains and blinds can be expensive, so go for plain neutrals rather than patterned fabrics, which will be easier to blend in during the next room refresh.



PHOTO: BRETT CHARLES



'Add personality with decorative touches which can be changed as tastes evolve'

Beds

When it comes to choosing a children's bed, think functional and fun. Bunk beds are ideal for siblings but there are more design options with single beds such as different shapes and sizes. Bear in mind that you want this investment piece to last while your child is growing up. Also, don't underestimate the importance of choosing a good mattress that provides the best support for a growing boy or girl.

Left Classic Little White daybed, £1,495; Bedside chest, £225; Faux fur bean bag, £285; Matilda bed linen, from £12; Pink stripe rug, £69, all from The Little White Company
Right Johan mid-sleeper cabin bed in white with space-saving slide, £189, from Noa & Nani





TIME FOR A STORY

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a classic that will never grow old. This detailed printed paper features illustrations from the Lewis Carroll book and is part of the Classic Literature collection, designed and sold by Murals Wallpaper. It's £23.50 per sq. m

**Tips on creating
A GENDER
NEUTRAL ROOM**

BY JACINDA MALLOY, INTERIOR
STYLIST, HIDE & SLEEP

- Grey is a great colour for creating a gender neutral room as it's calming and serene. It works well with most colours including pastels and primary shades.
- If you want a themed room, animals are a great start as most children love them and there are many wonderful related products available, from wallpaper and wall stickers to bedding and toys.
- Keep a simple colour scheme by choosing wood or white painted furniture. Then you can add colour to the room and personalise the space to your child's style.
- Use layering of textures such as woollen rugs, felt cushions and linen curtains because each of these will create tactile interest and give neutral colours more depth and add a luxurious feel.
- There are so many wallpapers available but if you want something really fun, then look out for themed designs such as stars, clouds, animals, geometric shapes and landscape scenes to create a real feature.

READING CORNER

Create a cosy nook where your little one can sit down with their favourite book. In this room, interior stylist Jacinda Malloy has added a bookcase, shelf, bean bag cushion and a hanging chair

PHOTO: HALLS & SHINE



SAY IT WITH STRIPES

Left If you want the wallpaper you choose to suit a room for a boy or girl, or both, then go for something like this. From the Guess Who? collection, the Jelly Tot stripe wallpaper features a deckchair-inspired stripe in a happy colour combination. It's £28 per roll, from Scion

LEARN YOUR LETTERS

Right Providing privacy and designed to fit your window, the white printed Alfabeto frosted film is a great idea. Your child will have an easy reference to the alphabet as they're learning to read and write. It's from £30, The Window Film Company



PETITE IDEAS

Aside from a bed, you might be thinking of furniture for your child's bedroom or playroom. The Rochelle French armchair, £295, and the Petite Louis French armchair, £345, are hand-carved from mango wood and provide a very comfortable place to sit. They're from Within



All in the detail

From wall murals to patterned wallpaper, hanging chairs to soft bean bags, there's so much you can add to your child's bedroom to make it a space full of fun and intrigue. Be wise with underbed drawers and floor-standing or wall shelving to store books and toys, and add personal touches such as artwork, wall stickers and photos for a room that you'll enjoy spending time in just as much as your children.

Single Greta kids bed in reclaimed fir, £395, from Loaf

'Layer different textures to give neutral colours more depth and a luxurious feel'

