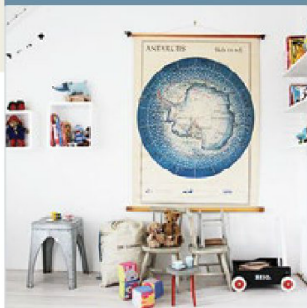


TIP OF THE SEASON

By Ursula Wesselingh,
Interior Designer at
Room to Bloom



Going for a theme means it's relatively easy to achieve a coherent looking nursery or bedroom (be prepared to redecorate regularly to keep up with changing interests though). But themes can also overwhelm – be careful not to lose the all important balance between rest and stimulation. The way to overcome 'theme-overload' is to stick to one golden rule of interior design: create a single point of focus and keep the rest simple. In three practical tips:

1. Keep walls and floors neutral and add easily replaceable accessories. If you can't resist themed wallpaper, use it on just one wall.
2. Don't buy themed basics such as a bed, wardrobe or curtains. Instead, be creative and capture the essence. A hammock can turn a room into a desert island or pirate ship, sheer drapes and pretty bedding can create a princess bed.
3. Try guiding your child gently towards a theme that you think will last longer than their current crush on Ben10. An appreciation of good design is learnt and starts early.

* For more decorating tips or to book a design consultation, go to Room to Bloom www.room-to-bloom.com



SCANDI CHIC

If, like our interior guru Ursula Wesselingh mentioned, you cannot resist a themed wallpaper, then this could be the perfect piece of paper to get into the wild. Let every child's imagination run into a playful wilderness of adventure with the new and exclusive wallpaper design from British children's brand, Hibou Home. Add a touch of Scandinavian chic by bringing the great outdoors into nurseries and bedrooms. Priced from £70.
* www.hibouhome.com



UP AND AWAY

It's time to get creative, and get sticking. There's something magical about hot air balloons and now you can invite them inside to a child's bedroom or playroom. You'll have 8 different sized balloons to sort and stick, the pack also includes clouds to dot around - making you feel high in the sky. Priced £49.
* www.bobokids.co.uk



WORLDWIDE

Scratch up on your geographical knowledge with this beautiful world map by Famille Summerbelle. It provides a little flavour of the seas alongside some animal anecdotes too. Priced £55.
* www.notonthehighstreet.com



BEAR ESSENTIALS

This little pair are two-sided cushions, giving any room a woodland touch. A fun and fresh addition, printed on high quality cotton drill - ideal for autumn snuggles. Each priced £45.
* www.howkapow.com