

Bedtime STORIES

Create a magical kingdom in which a child's imagination can take flight



Room to Bloom specialises in creating bespoke interiors for children that feed their imaginations and create spaces that adapt as they grow – from nurseries to bedrooms to playrooms.



The children's novelist Jerry Spinelli wrote that "every child's bedroom is as important as a telescope orbiting the planet Earth, or a philosopher's study". It is, after all, the very first canvas they have upon which to express and reflect themselves. And since children typically have just one room to stamp their little – or, indeed, large – characters on, creating their space transcends simple decorating: the bedroom becomes an expression of their whole world and a retreat from the shared spaces in the rest of the house.

Children's bedrooms have long served as gateways to faraway kingdoms redolent of magic and adventure – such as C S Lewis' Narnia or J M Barrie's Neverland – as well as being safe cocoons in which to listen to an imagination-firing bedtime story or play with treasured toys. They are also spaces where both young and old can share the joy of childhood, with what might seem to be a simple bed, cupboard or table can become objects full of fantasy and fun.

As one of the requirements of a child's bedroom is that it must be able to grow with its small inhabitant, it is important to think beyond the immediate term. Ruth Aram, of Aram Designs, advises choosing furniture that can be reconfigured to suit the changing demands of a growing child. "Modular furniture systems can change according to needs and are a great way of adding and subtracting over time. USM and Montana storage units and desks are a perfect example of this. Shelves, drawers and doors can be added as children acquire more possessions and need more storage space." ▶



SMALL INSET
A pretty, feminine bedroom for any age. *Pink Sophia* wallpaper, £60 a metre; fabric, £65 a metre, Kate Forman

ABOVE Florals, stripes and checks create a vintage feel. *Abrazoo* fabric, from £29 a metre, Little Sanderson

LEFT A light and airy bedroom provides a calm environment for studying. *Brooklyn* desk by OeufNYC, from £607.16, *Smalleable*

BELOW LEFT *Jack All Star* fabric, £54 a metre, Peony & Sage

BELOW RIGHT Children's bedrooms designed by Odd Sock Odd Shoe start at £2,000 for an all-inclusive design package, including furnishings.

