

# ROOM TO GROW

Creating a space that will grow with your children can be hard. We bring you expert advice, tips and hints and colourful inspiration to get you started.



Table, chairs, blackboard, retro toys and pictures stylist's own. H&O 12-Hole Cubby in white \$249 from Warehouse Stationary. Le Toy Van Fire Engine \$99, large lettering from \$16.90 and small lettering from \$5.50, all from Smith and Caughey's. Wool Blend Cot Quilt in Scarlet or Navy Alfred Stripe \$110, Merino Blankets and Baby Shawls from \$90, Bundle Cot Blanket in Scarlet \$99, Set of Three Plywood Bunnies \$55, Red Scarlet Ticking Stripe Cot Duvet Cover \$120, Fire Engine Scatter Cushion \$70, Floor Cushions in Madder Red Ticking Stripe and Turquoise Stripe with Linen Backing POA, all from Gorgi [www.gorgi.co.nz](http://www.gorgi.co.nz).



**DECORATING A CHILD'S BEDROOM** can be a lot of fun, it provides an opportunity for both the parent and child to create an interior concept that is a fusion of grown up practicality and childhood fantasy. Themed rooms have made way for an interior style whereby children can indulge in their sense of fun and imagination whilst allowing for space to retreat, rest and recover. It is not just a question of paint, it is the story that is created with the paint and decorative elements that will give your young individual his or her sanctuary to play, to grow and discover.

## Planning

A successful design scheme will require a plan; it will also serve as a point of reference for your child who may invariably change their mind or get sidetracked with detail during the renovation process. A useful start is to sit in the room and talk about what is or is not working, look at different elements and pieces that create interest. Collect boxes of 'special' items that create colour stories and those that may become the anchor item within the room, this may be a vintage world map with sepia hues, a doll's house in a dusky blue with white trim, or a pre-loved furniture piece awaiting a new colour.



Cot mattress from [www.touchwoodcots.co.nz](http://www.touchwoodcots.co.nz), Dress Up Rua art by Penny Stotter [www.pennystotter.com](http://www.pennystotter.com), Saarinen & Eames chair \$800 from [Homage](http://Homage), pegs from [www.littlehousewife.co.nz](http://www.littlehousewife.co.nz), Vintage cot sheet set \$100, cot quilt \$106, merino aircell cot blanket \$159, vintage-inspired merino shawl \$159, vintage floral lamp \$106, all from Gorgi [www.gorgi.co.nz](http://www.gorgi.co.nz), Roman Blinds in Gorgi's Natural Linen fabric, POA. Painted Solutions anaglypta wallpaper 32817 from [Vision Wallcoverings](http://Vision Wallcoverings).

## Wallpaper

Wallpapers are the perfect vehicle for your child to add their signature or 'story' to their room concept while avoiding a full themed sanctuary that they will invariably grow tired of as they develop and mature. Combining paint and paper is a popular choice, it also provides opportunity for parents to extend their 'budget' to incorporate designer papers on one or two statement walls. Embossed or anaglypta papers that can be painted over add depth and dimension to a wall. The choice is endless therefore limit your child's options by showing a selection of two or three books that have been previously viewed and complement his or her interests.





## Soft Furnishings

Fabrics give a room personality, therefore look for soft furnishings that will complement the story that you and your child have created. The first point of focus in a bedroom is the bed and its coverings. Choose items that will grow, both in taste and size, with your child. Choose products that combine classic with contemporary, as this will also work as your child becomes a teenager. When choosing bed coverings, offer your child a choice of three or four cover options in various colours and or prints. The coverings will then give you a place to start in regards to your choice of paint colour.

Small Elephant \$26.95, Big Elephant \$39.95, Lion \$34.95, Giraffe \$39.95, Trees \$69.95, and Toadstool Lamp \$195, all from [www.naturebaby.co.nz](http://www.naturebaby.co.nz), Bundle Merino Scarlet Bed Blanket \$180, Old World Collection Black and White Pinstripe Bed Quilt \$258, Old World Collection Black White Pinstripe Oxford Pillowcase \$36, Pillowcase with Madder Red Ticking Stripe Cuff \$34, Madder Red Ticking Stripe Duvet Cover King Single \$204, Old World Vintage 16th Century Elephant Print Oxford Pillowcase \$36, all from Gorgi [www.gorgi.co.nz](http://www.gorgi.co.nz), Norwall Black and White TS28169 wallpaper from [Vision Wallcoverings](http://Vision Wallcoverings).



## Paint

Soft neutrals are the ideal choice for babies rooms; brighter colours will only serve to overwhelm or confuse their immature sensory skills. Whites reflect 80% of light so are a good option for small rooms or can be used as an anchor colour that can be enhanced by the creative use of other soft tones or decorative wallpapers. Soft greens will create warmth and light to a dim room, while warm blues will offer your child a sense of calm and rest. Accessory colours such as reds and oranges can be used to counterbalance neutrals. Think about their use on a piece of pre-loved furniture, lampshade or other item that will add interest to your child's space. Remember that paint doesn't have to just add colour, blackboard or magnetic paint can transform a wall into a mural or art installation, it is also useful as the backdrop for learning and discovery.

*Kirstin Bailey is the Director and Designer of Gorgi New Zealand and is mother to three boys Bodhi, Orlando and Sebastian. For more information refer to Gorgi online [www.gorgi.co.nz](http://www.gorgi.co.nz)*