

Trendy Toddlers: Safe & Chic Kids' Rooms

Kids sure do grow up fast. From babies to toddlers to teens, young ones seem to know exactly what they want, and the choice of décor in their bedrooms and playrooms is no exception. Luxury kid décor is an increasingly popular home trend, and parents everywhere are creating hip and stylish rooms for their kids. Parents must bear in mind, however, that safety is always the most important element in any room where children spend time.

Keep children's bedrooms and playrooms trendy and set your mind at ease with these safe and stylish design ideas.

Hot Colors

Kids have always been drawn to bright, splashy color palettes. Embrace your child's need for electric-lime-green walls, but make sure the paint in your child's room is lead-free. The sale of paints containing lead has been banned since 1978, but if there is a chance your home has not been repainted since then, consider testing for lead (kits are available in most hardware stores). Doors and windows should be the first place to test, as they are prone to peeling from exposure to the elements and often handled daily.

Hooray for Hollywood!

Give your little one the star treatment with Hollywood-themed accessories. Incorporate pretty dressing tables with light-lined mirrors, a star with the child's name painted on the door, and star designs on walls and



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The Privacy Morning Sun 3/8-inch single cell from Springs Window Fashions LLC keeps kids' rooms safe and chic.

bedding and voila! A star is born.

Just be sure you check all new bedding for potential safety hazards. When using a crib, make sure it meets current safety standards and look for a firm, tight-fitting mattress and a tight-fitting bottom sheet. Be careful not to place babies under one year of age on soft bedding such as pillows, thick quilts, and comforters.

Canopy Creations

Few bedroom designs are as lavish and indulgent as canopies. Treat little ones to this classic look, but keep safety in mind. Fabric canopies can be unsafe when hung around a crib. Try draping a sheer canopy over an unused fireplace, closet or armoire placed behind baby's crib. This centers the room's focal point around the crib,

just as a regular canopy would. You'll get the elegant look of a canopy with the safety your little one deserves.

Pretty Pillows

Pillows can be a fun and inexpensive way to add depth and color to any room. Is your nursery a mix of whites and greens? Add bright fuchsia or purple pillows for extra punch. Red pillows in a mostly blue room offer an unexpected patriotic flair. Just be sure to remove decorative pillows from baby's crib and toddler's bed before bedtime, as they could be potential suffocation hazards.

Whimsical Windows

Windows make great focal points for your child's room—they're a source of natural light and fresh air. Choose room-darkening vertical and horizontal blinds, available in metal, vinyl or wood, to ensure babies and young children get the rest they need. For a contemporary look, coordinate your blinds with fabric drapes or curtains in bright colors and soft fabrics to compliment the rooms' décor.

Whichever types of window coverings you choose, always make safety a priority in children's bed or playrooms. The Window Covering Safety Council (WCSC) urges parents to replace window coverings made before 2001 with today's safer products and cordless designs, or to retrofit older window coverings using free kits available online at www.windowcoverings.org or by phoning 1-800-506-4636. **HP**