

# kids ONLY

These four petite pads prove that sophisticated style isn't just reserved for adults.

TEXT LESLEY YOUNG



# 1 TWO PEAS IN A pod

Inspired by a beloved wallpaper, homeowner Jessica Waks designs a charming nursery for her one-year-old twins, Jack and Charlie.

**BALANCED BOOKS** The colourful wallpaper – a collage of iconic early Penguin book covers – was the starting point for the twins' nursery. "I fell in love with its whimsical vintage sensibility. Plus, I've always loved classic literature," says Jessica. Since it's a busy pattern, she limited it to a feature wall and repeated only three hues – periwinkle, navy and orange – in the decor.

**CUBBY CENTRAL** Storage was important because Jessica had selected the smallest bedroom for the nursery before knowing she was having twins. And while the designated space sports a decent-sized closet, she still chose a highly functional dresser with cubbies for easy access to baby supplies and a top that works as a change table.



Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; Osborne & Little Penguin Library **WALLPAPER**, Primavera; **CRIBS, DRESSER**, Mother Hubbard's Cupboards; swivel **GLIDER**, Rooms to Grow; Lulu DK Child for Schumacher Skittles **WINDOW COVERING FABRIC** in Blueberry & Sky, Billbrough & Co.; **WINDOW COVERING SEWING**, Wesley Seto Design; **QUILT, CRIB SHEETS, WALL SHELVES**, navy canvas **STORAGE BUCKET**, Pottery Barn Kids; **CRIB SKIRTS**, Serena & Lily; **RUG, STORAGE BASKETS** (in dresser), The Land of Nod; watercolour animal **PRINTS**, Mary's Flower Garden; custom **FRAMING**, Pi Fine Art; **LUMBAR CUSHION FABRIC**, Designer Fabrics; **MOBILE**, Needlenerd; wooden Hebrew **BLOCKS**, L'il Niblets; deer, giraffe (on dresser) and zebra **PLUSH TOYS**, Advice From a Caterpillar; orange **TOY CAR**, Elte.



PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH



## decorating advice

*"Be playful but practical. Try to inject some imagination but, at the same time, if something isn't functioning the best it can for you and your babies, it's not worth it."*

**DOUBLE-DIPPING** The budget Jessica had for decorating the nursery took a huge hit when she found out twins were on the way. She saved money by confining the wallpaper to one surface and creating inexpensive art with prints purchased from Etsy. "This allowed me to invest in worthwhile custom blackout drapery and a swivel glider that can be used somewhere else in the future," she explains. Jessica inherited the stunning antique chandelier from her late grandmother.

The wall-mounted shelves provide a rotating display of favourite titles.





## 2 DOUBLE-DECKER fun

*Style at Home* contributing design editor Christine Hanlon goes bold when decorating the shared cottage bedroom of her daughter, Sophie, 10, and son, Henry, 7.

**SEEING SPOTS** Christine wanted to bring a playful gender-neutral energy to the bedroom shared by her two kids on cottage weekends. “I found the dark grey and white polka-dot bedding at IKEA and immediately fell in love with it. The pattern is youthful but not too sweet,” she says. While Christine didn’t have Dalmatians in mind at first, she “went with it” by accenting with plush dog toys after the theme materialized.

**BUDGET BUYS** Since this is a second home, Christine didn’t want to commit to any expensive kid-specific furnishings. For example, she repurposed a lovely wood-trimmed suitcase found curbside into a nightstand. “It’s the perfect height and width for a shared nightstand because the bunk beds are quite low to the ground,” she explains.



Stylish staples like the industrial-look light fixture and bold striped rug mature the space.

**FUN FUNCTION** These bunk beds make perfect sense for this room for several reasons. “They’re incredibly affordable and remarkably sturdy – the kids use them like a jungle gym,” says Christine. And when she’s hosting other families at the cottage, the bunk beds are an ideal sleep solution.

Blackened 2011 **WALL PAINT**, Farrow & Ball; Wythe Blue HC-143 **FLOOR PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **BUNK BEDS, BEDDING, STOOLS, RUG**, IKEA; **PENDANT LIGHT**, The Home Depot.

### decorating advice

*“Decorate kids’ rooms without making major commitments. In less than an hour, I could give this space a completely different look on a relatively small budget.”*

### 3 PRETTY PINK palace

Designer Jenifer Glover transforms the greyish blue room of her daughter Gabriele, 15, into a teen escape that packs a whole lot of punch in fuchsia.

**PINK POW** When Jenifer's daughter Gabriele told her that she wanted her recently renovated grown-up room to be pink, Jenifer gave her three paint chips to choose from. "She picked this strong fuchsia, and I couldn't believe how much it livened up the space," says Jenifer. Because of its exuberance, however, she restricted it to a feature wall.

**CUSTOM CREATIONS** Since the entire home was undergoing a renovation, Jenifer opted to raise the ceiling in Gabriele's room, add a second skylight and extend one wall by two feet to accommodate built-in storage. The shelving units on either side of the bed perfectly fit the tight, sloped space.

**TIDY TRICK** Jenifer chose to furnish the room with simple white pieces. "Kids tend to have a lot of



things – a lot of bright and colourful things. It can be really overwhelming to the eye, so I wanted to make sure the furniture provided a clean backdrop."

**DESIGN**, J.G. Interiors, jginteriors.com; Wimborne White 239 **WALL PAINT**, Farrow & Ball; Crushed Berries 2076-30 **ACCENT WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; **BEDDING**, Pottery Barn Kids; **DESK**, West Elm; **DESK CHAIR**, G.H. Johnson's Trading Co.; **POUFFE**, RUG, Y & Co.; *Mother and Child* **ARTWORK** by Susan McLean Woodburn, Art Interiors; **MIRROR**, paint palette **TRAY**, Elte; **PENDANT LIGHT**, IKEA.

### decorating advice

*"Invest in pieces that will offer the most flexibility, as well as ones that will grow along with your child. This way, you're not having to buy new furniture at each stage."*

PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL GRAYDON; STYLING, ANN MARIE FAVOT & MORGAN LINDSAY



## 4 HARDY BOYS hideout

Despite building a brand new four-bedroom house, homeowner Remy Lang creates a whimsical room with a nostalgic heart for her son, Max, 5.

**SETTING SAIL** “It felt vintage, almost ‘70s, to me,” says Remy of the Cath Kidston sailboat wallpaper, the starting point for the decor in her son’s room. “I really loved it and had family bring it back from the U.K.” The retro-style pendant light and classic rib-knit pillowcase continue the nostalgic vibe, while the striped bedding and zigzag rug keep the look fresh and modern.

**SAVING SOLUTIONS** Remy saved a lot of money by having her builder create a built-in bed frame out of plywood and trimming it with moulding. “I couldn’t find a bed in our price range, and this was a great solution – it only cost me \$150,” she says.

**PLAYFUL PLAN** The canvas teepee, a gift from Max’s grandmother, provides him with ample fun. “It does



A mini Eames-style chair makes a surprising masculine statement

double duty as storage for books and toys when he’s not playing in it,” says Remy. She also hung one utilitarian black sconce above the bed, skipping the need for a nightstand and table lamp.

Cloud White CC-40 **WALL PAINT**, Benjamin Moore; striped **DUVET COVER**, West Elm; **BED SHEETS, PILLOWCASES**, Au Lit Fine Linens; **RUG**, Urban Outfitters; **PENDANT LIGHT**, Restoration Hardware; **SCONCE**, Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.

### decorating advice

*“Keep it simple – you can always add later. And as soon as your kids are old enough, involve them in a few of the design choices. It makes it more fun for everyone.”*

PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL GRAYDON;  
STYLING: CHRISTINE HALLON