

Child's Play: Five Tips for Painting a Perfect Kid's Room

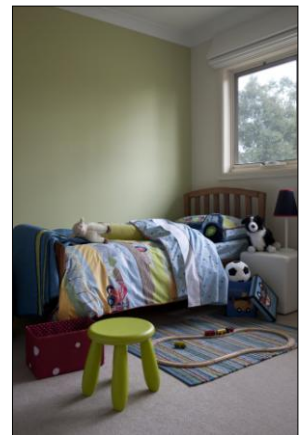
From baby nursery to teen retreat, there's now a bevy of decorating options when it comes to painting your child's room. Here are five tips to create a bedroom to delight your little (or not so little) ray of sunshine.

1. Something New, Not Just Pink and Blue

It's no longer simply blue for boys and pink for girls when it comes to children's rooms. Think outside the square and embrace some new not-so-predictable shades. A playful orange tone like Dulux Exotic Flower is a hit with both genders, while a fresh colour like Dulux Citrus Delight will see a child through the tweens into late teenagehood.



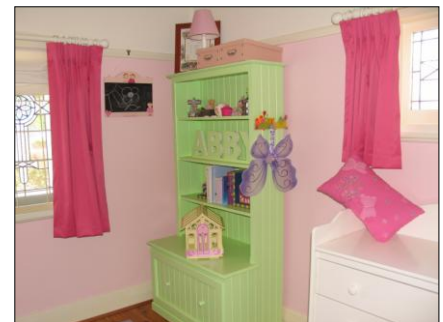
If you're not sure about making such a bold statement, remember a feature wall is a great way to inject some colour into a room while still playing it safe.



Dulux Celery Green on a feature wall is a hit with both genders.

2. Beyond the Four Walls

Remember it's not just walls that look all the more stunning with a fresh coat of paint. Raw pine furniture, such as bookcases, slat beds and bedside tables, are an inexpensive alternative to pre-coated furniture, plus they allow you to coordinate your furniture with your walls and the rest of your decor. You can even make a statement piece out of an otherwise ordinary object. Check out this bookcase with toy chest that packs a punch painted in Dulux Pastel Pea. Simply prepare the furniture with an undercoat like Dulux 1 Step Acrylic Primer Sealer Undercoat and finish off with water-based enamel that will cope with bumps and scuffs, such as Dulux Aquanameal.



A girl's room painted in Dulux Pink Tutu, featuring a bookcase finished in Dulux Pastel Pea.

3. The Artist Within

A child's room is a great place to demonstrate the full scope of your creativity (or your child's, if you're feeling brave). You don't need to be a trained artist to paint a mural with a fun kids' theme. Look around at books, magazines and the internet for inspiration and then practise your design on paper until you get it just right. You can then map out your artwork on the wall using a soft lead pencil (with an eraser at the ready), before getting out the paint. Speak to the paint experts at your local Inspirations store about which paints will work best for the mural and what you can use to seal your work of art when it's finished, to protect it against any rough treatment.



A hand painted mural gives this Nursery a fun jungle theme

4. Sticky Business

For wall art that is simple and quick, you can't go past removable stickers or decals for children's rooms. Because they're removable you can easily peel them off and reapply them if you put them in the wrong spot; or change them altogether if your child has outgrown his farmyard theme and wants to move onto spaceships.

Afterwards, your walls will be left unmarked, with no clean up required. Your local Inspirations store has a range of removable stickers for all ages; and if you can't find the one you're after in-store, your Inspirations paint expert will be happy to arrange a special order for you.

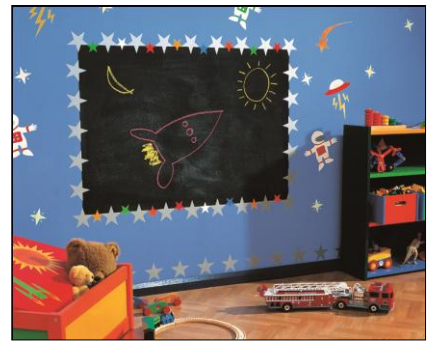


Polka dot wall decals inject some colourful fun in a playroom or child's bedroom.

5. Written With Love

All kids seem to have at least one attempt at drawing on the walls, to the horror of their parents. These days, parents can relax when they've used a paint with high washability and scuff resistance, like Dulux Wash & Wear.

Simply wipe the wall with a damp cloth to remove the offending sketch; or beat your budding Picasso at his or her own game by including a chalkboard section to their wall. Pick up either White Knight Chalkboard Paint (available in deep green or black) or Dulux Chalkboard Paint (available in black) at your Inspirations store.



Creative use of chalkboard paint in a little boys space themed bedroom.

So if you're expecting your first bub and are keeping the gender a surprise, there are still options for decorating the nursery. Alternatively, you may know your baby's gender but are bored with pink or blue, or have an opposition to gender stereotyping. With the popularity of modern citrus hues and a bevy of non-paint accessories available, many decorating opportunities still exist for creating a unique yet appropriate kids room in 2010.

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