

Guidance for one of your most exciting projects.

Converting a Nursery Into a Child's Room



Create an exciting environment for your child.

Converting a nursery into a child's room is one of the many joys of watching your child grow up. From choosing a color scheme to painting a mural, take this opportunity to use your imagination. Create an exciting environment in which your child can play and rest. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a service to you.

Making the Change

The basic items in most nurseries are the crib, changing table, rocker, toy shelves and dresser. Most baby furniture is durable and can withstand the toddler years. Therefore, you might be able to keep most of it and simply replace the crib with a bed.

If you need to buy new furniture, make sure it is durable, functional and adaptable enough to grow with your child. Most children two to two and a half years old or 3 1/2' tall or taller are ready for a big bed, but there's no need to rush the process. Making the transition from crib to bed needs to be at your child's pace. Here are some ways to tell if your child is ready for a big bed:

- Ask your child if he or she is ready to sleep in a bed.
- If your child is old enough to climb out of the crib, he or she might be ready for a bed.
- Children with older brothers or sisters usually show an earlier interest in moving to an adult-sized bed.



To make the transition from crib to bed easier, include some toys or a blanket from the crib.

Shopping For a Bed

When shopping for a bed, check the manufacturers' warranties and construction. Twin-size beds are popular for small rooms, but many parents choose a full-size bed to allow room for parent and child story time and to allow plenty of room for growth. Use the following suggestions when choosing a bed:

- Choose a bed frame with rounded edges.
- Make sure the slats or spindles in a headboard or footboard are too narrow for a child's head to fit through.
- The mattress should fit tightly into the bed frame so hands and feet don't get caught.
- You may want to choose a child-size bed that will last until your child is around five years old.
- Let your child look through magazines and catalogs and select styles he or she likes.

Fruit and Candy Garlands

The color schemes most parents use to decorate the nursery are blue, pink or yellow. You'll probably want to change this as your child grows older. Luckily, paint is the least expensive and simplest way to change a room into a fun place for your child to spend his or her time. The room should reflect the child's personality and be a place the child can rest and play.



Good Idea: Use washable paints for easy clean up of fingerprints and crayon drawings.

- Theme decorating is a popular trend. Be thoughtful in your selection of themes. Popular cartoon and movie characters may quickly become outdated. Some other themes include playhouse, safari, wilderness, circus, rain forest, sports, racing, school days, transportation, traditional storybook characters, farming and space exploration. When [choosing colors](#) and a theme, it's important to remember how quickly your child grows. Try to choose a pattern that will still be appealing as the child gets older. For instance, bunnies and elephants probably won't appeal to your child when he or she reaches the age of six. Choose a circus or farm theme instead. Involve your child in the decorating process by allowing him or her to choose from a parent-approved selection of themes and colors.
- Use a multicolored scheme in your child's room on the walls, ceiling, window frames and furniture. Your child will love to spend time in a colorful room. Choose a focal pattern for the room, for example, a wallpaper pattern, bedding or a colorful piece of furniture and use it as a basis for choosing your colors.
- [Stencils](#) can be used to decorate the walls and closet doors.

Carpet

[Carpet](#) is one of the most expensive decorating investments. There are many things to consider when choosing carpet, such as color, texture, style and durability. Choose a neutral color that coordinates with many different themes and colors.

Organizing Your Child's Room

Many children have more toys than they can play with at one time. Organize the bedroom so your child is able to walk into the room and focus on one activity. Too many activities available in a room may cause your child to wander around or become easily bored.

- Keep your child from becoming bored by introducing different groups of toys every other week.
- Place toys in labeled see-through containers on low shelves. Leave the bins uncovered to give your toddler easy access to his or her toys.
- [Closet systems](#) can help create order out of chaos. They provide organization and can be changed to meet the needs of a growing child. Closet systems are available at your local Lowe's store.
- Use bookshelves to create additional storage. Make sure the bookshelves are anchored to [studs](#) in the walls for safety. Remember, favorite books and toys should be stored on low shelves for easy accessibility.
- Don't forget about storage options under the bed. Eliminate clutter by using plastic storage containers.
- Set up a reading area in your child's room to promote a love of reading. Put books in a crate or on the bottom of a bookshelf. A corner piled up with pillows or a rocking chair near a bookshelf make comfortable places for you and your child to read together.
- Set up an art area in the room to contain the inevitable mess that arises from arts and crafts projects.
- Encourage your child's love of drawing by painting a large chalkboard in their room. Chalkboard paint can be applied to walls (paneling, plaster or drywall) or floors (wood or concrete).
- Have a bulletin board, artist easel or a large roll of paper available for your child to express his or her imagination. Don't forget a caddy of tempera paints, crayons, colored pencils and washable markers for the many pictures your child will want to draw for you.
- Place a washable rug under an art table to catch spills and protect your floors.
- Laminate your child's paintings or drawings and hang them throughout the room at the child's eye level.



Closet organizers can help you keep everything in its place.

Painting a Mural

A mural is a popular decorating idea for a child's room. Murals can be painted on doors and walls. Make painting a mural a family project. Have your child finger-paint walls using nontoxic acrylic latex paint. Siblings may want to participate by helping paint pictures of the family pet, family members or other scenes. Mom and Dad can add their special touch by painting a special memory of their child or interesting places they've visited over the years. If you aren't artistically inclined, you can use an overhead projector to help you paint your mural. After you've chosen an image, have it copied onto transparency paper, then project it on the wall as a pattern.

1. Place drop cloths on the floor.

2. Prime the area and allow to dry.
3. Lightly sketch the drawing on the wall before painting. (If you're using an overhead projector, shine the image on the wall or door and sketch. The less detailed the image, the easier it is to sketch and paint.)
4. Paint the mural. Paint any doorframe first to avoid stray drips on your finished mural.
5. Allow to dry completely.
6. Seal the painting with clear polyurethane.

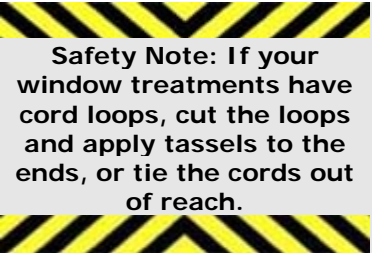
Lighting

Ambient and task [lighting](#) are important to consider for your child's room.

- **Ambient** or **general** lighting provides the main soft light.
- **Task** lighting provides additional light for activities such as reading or drawing.

Make sure you plan for both ambient and task lighting when choosing lighting fixtures.

Natural light is also important in a child's room. [Window treatments](#) should be versatile enough to block light for daytime naps, but allow plenty of natural light during playtime. A cordless, rollup window shade is perfect for blocking out sunlight at naptime, but is easily pulled up for lots of natural light.



Using Your Creativity

Smart choices and imagination go a long way when you convert a nursery into a child's room. Your child will enjoy spending countless hours in his or her colorful, new room.

Was this information helpful? Please [let us know](#) your do-it-yourself experiences. We'd love to hear from you!

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