

CHILD'S

{PLAY}

Whether for a toddler or a teen, a kid's room should be fun and functional. Shay Geyer of IBB Design Fine Furnishings offers insight into creating the perfect space for your child.



Room Design

Your child(ren) should absolutely have a say in their room's design. After all, it is their room. You want them to feel connected to and proud of it. I'm not saying they should drive the ship on the decision-making, but let them brainstorm with you on the color palette and functionality. Talk them through furniture placement and visualize what the end result will be. In all, it leads to excitement about their new space.

Storage

Kids bedrooms often seem to run short on storage space. Sometimes you need to think outside the box and get creative with storage ideas. You may explore the idea of built-ins to offer additional storage for the room. Nightstands with drawers and dressers are essentials, but you can also add a storage bench or ottoman to the room.

Art

A room's artwork helps tie the whole design together. I love to have younger kiddos paint or draw artwork for their own room in colors that coordinate with their palette. For tweens and teens, let them look at art with you and help you choose. Kids are never too young to learn about art and there are so many talented artists in our area. You might even entertain commissioning a piece and letting your child sit with the artist to design something just for them.



Playtime

Should rooms house toys? It's one of the greatest debates amongst parents. Short answer: it's a personal preference. Some parents prefer toys to be organized in play or game rooms, keeping the bedrooms strictly for sleeping or studying. A bookshelf with baskets and cubbies can neatly contain toys and games. For a fun design element, have coordinating fabric liners custom made for the storage baskets. For an extra touch, label them by using embroidery. A storage bench or toy chest may also be placed at the end of a bed. For little ones, a small table and several chairs may be used as a place to color and play games.

Themes

Themes can get tricky. If you choose something associated with a particular TV show or character, chances are your child will tire of it at some point – it's the nature of growing up. Kids rooms are the perfect opportunity to have fun with bold colors and patterns. Using geometric shapes to paint a large-scale pattern on the bedroom wall provides a bold and impactful design. It also allows for a smooth transition into the older years. If you want to have a theme, consider painting it on a feature wall or using removable wallpaper or decals. These items may easily be changed out as your child matures.



Study Area

As your child gets older, you will want to define a space in their room for homework and study. If you're running short on space, opt for a desk on one side of the bed instead of a typical nightstand. Corners of a room can make the perfect spot for a sitting area. If you have additional space, adding a small club chair creates a place for your child to read or sit with their laptop or iPad. An ottoman may also be tucked under an open end table or console to be used as a small desk.

Bed Size

When designing a nursery, I often include a twin bed in the furniture plan. This gives mom and dad a place to sleep when baby is sick and can also transition to a "big-kid bed" after he or she outgrows the crib. As the years go by, you may want to switch the twin bed for a queen-sized bed to better accommodate your child's teenage years. Nowadays, full-sized beds are becoming less common. If your room will fit a queen-size, you'll reap the benefits in the long run.

Personalize It!

Monogramming pillows and other items can instill pride and ownership for a child in their room. It helps define the space as theirs, created just for them. From large wall art and letter lights to embroidered linens and towels, adding their name or initials to a space helps make it their own.



Photos on this page by James Edward



Partner and designer of IBB Design Fine Furnishings, Shay Geyer has passion for interiors and interior products that makes creating beautiful spaces for clients a true dream job. Her vibrant personality and personal approach to design often land her high-profile and lifelong clients that trust her not only with their primary homes but also vacation homes across the country. Shay has served as the design expert for WFAA's "Good Morning Texas" since 2006. Her design segments can be seen on the show every Friday morning.

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