



Justine
Schafer, 30,
mum to
Amalia, four

Design your toddler room

THREE CREATIVE MUMS REVEAL THE INSPIRATIONS THAT BROUGHT THEIR TOT'S ROOM TO LIFE

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?

When I began designing Amalia's 'big girl' room, I wanted it to be a whimsical space that she'd love to be in. So I started by asking her what she'd like in her new room. Like most little girls, she loves pink, so of course that was her first request, and then out of nowhere she said 'and black with unicorns!' After a bit of negotiation, we agreed on pink, grey (instead of black) and white, with a magical feel. It worked quite well, as I wanted the room to be able

to grow with her. And with this colour palette I've been able to add and remove items without changing the feel too much.

WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION?

I do a lot of online shopping and my favourite brands are Homely Creatures, Yorkelee Prints, Down to the Woods and La De Dah Kids. I spend a lot of time on social media and am lucky enough to preview new releases through some great relationships I've formed over the years.

FAVOURITE PART OF THE ROOM?

This would have to be the bird mobiles hanging to the right of her bed. They were a baby shower gift when I was pregnant with Amalia and she had them in her nursery, too. I've also included many inspirational messages and words of love and empowerment in her room on posters and canvases. Although she mightn't be able to read them just yet, she knows what they all say because we tell her every day. Another favourite is the fingerprint

tree that is framed and hanging on the wall. It's from her baptism and has a fingerprint from all our family and friends on it – it's a special reminder of how lucky we truly are.

WHAT SPECIAL TOUCHES ARE KEY TO THE LOOK OF THE ROOM?

Primarily, Amalia's room is pale pink, grey and white, but I've included hints of more bold pinks and greys to create points of interest. I've even included small amounts of black, which Amalia is quite happy about. It's all about the journey through the space, various charming pieces and pops of colour variations that move your eyes around the room. It's important to think of the room as a whole and ensure that everything isn't just happening on one wall or section of the room.

Compiled by Samantha Docherty Photography Happy Little Tenant (Amalia's room); Spinifex Photography (Sophia's room)

little pads



Get the look

iDecorate display
houses, \$289
(set of three)



Sonny Angels at
Papier d'Amour
'Fruit' kewpie
dolls, \$15 each

Incy Interiors 'Mia'
single bed, \$549

WHAT DECORATING ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO OTHER MUMS?

Make sure you include some of your child's personality and items of interest in their room – it's their room after all. If they like a certain colour, include it. If it's not possible, reach a compromise. I've found that children are more likely to enjoy the space if they identify with it. And if they like it, there is more of a chance they'll keep it tidy – well, we can dream!

Visit Justine's website at
www.happylittletenant.com.au
or Instagram @happylittletenant

Fine Little Day at Leo
& Bella 'Pirum Parum'
poster (unframed), \$59

Rainbows and
Clover by nic
nac felt cloud
cushion,
\$44.95

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?

I was very conscious about making a room that not only looked great but was also in tune with how my son would use the space. We are lucky enough to have an amazing 'house bed' from a small business called Luca and Johnny – so I really designed the room around the bed, incorporating it into another space to play, read and make cubby houses in.

WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR IDEAS AND INSPIRATION?

I love to shop local, and Instagram has so

many amazing small businesses creating on-trend and affordable items for kids. Some of my faves are Silent Little Whispers – who make the most rad prints for childrens rooms – and O + Mighty, who create fabulous paper storage bags in custom colours that are perfect for storage of kids' toys.

FAVOURITE PART OF THE ROOM?

I love my son's 'house bed' frame. It really brings a playfulness into the space and is perfect for making into a cubby house and snuggling in a story time.

WHAT SPECIAL TOUCHES ARE KEY TO THE LOOK OF THE ROOM?

Pops of colour against a monochrome backdrop really help make Luka's room stand out. My son's favourite colour is blue, so I incorporated a cosy blue throw and blue cushion with subtle hints of yellow throughout to create a bright and happy room.

WHAT DECORATING ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO OTHER MUMS?

Incorporating your child's favourite colour throughout is a great starting point when

designing your child's room. Keep it functional, and have your child's interest in mind when decorating the space. A super affordable way to add some fun into the room is to use party decorations! Paper lanterns and bunting are very inexpensive and come in all different colours and designs.

Visit Kirra's website at www.kbstyling.com.au or Instagram @k_bloves
Kirra also blogs at www.iheartbargains.com.au





Margaret-Anne Kerschke, 24, mum to Sophia, three

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?

It all began with Sophia's reversible bed (which can be flipped over to create a high bed when she gets older). Once we had decided on that, the theme flowed from there. Understanding what feeling you want to get from the room in the beginning is very helpful. We wanted it to be light, bright, playful and peaceful.

WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR IDEAS AND INSPIRATION?

Instagram! There are so many amazing small businesses, interior designers and stylists out there waiting to be found.

FAVOURITE PART OF THE ROOM?

It's so hard to pick just one aspect. But Sophia's favourite part would definitely be her table and chairs in the corner. So many tea parties to be had!

WHAT SPECIAL TOUCHES ARE KEY TO THE LOOK OF THE ROOM?

I think beautiful, great-quality linen goes a long way. Even something as simple as Sophia's fawn pillow case gives the room a unique feel. Also, finding the right artwork to tie everything together.

WHAT DECORATING ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO OTHER MUMS?

Start with the basics, such as bed, cupboard and drawers, and think about what your child will need in the coming years. Find pieces that you both really love and, one by one, slowly add them to the room. Play around with positioning; not everything looks as great in real life as it does in your mind. ●

View Sophia's room on Instagram @darthmarge

