



use natural, biodegradable products. Invest in pieces that last forever and don't fill up the landfills with disposable furniture."

Fev Hunter, owner, Cherry Four Junior Home

"You don't need to completely redo a child's room every few years if you make considered decisions to begin with. Think quality first. Kids are hard on things, so think longevity when creating the bones of the room. Invest in well-crafted furniture, bedding and window coverings in a style that will grow with your child. Choose stylish details and finishes that will stand the test of time. Choosing items such as a crib that ultimately converts into a double bed, or change tables that become dressers to which hutches for additional storage can be added, lay the foundation for longevity in a child's room. Transitional accessories such as artwork, cushions and beloved toys can also be worked into the room."

Darren Boomhower, interior designer, Johnson & Associates Interior Design

"A key part to kids' rooms aging well is adaptability. What some kids like one week, they may not like a week later. To have a child's room that ages well, try putting the colour and impact into the easily changed elements like bedding and paint. You can always make a room feel completely different with a fresh wall colour or by changing the accents on the bed. Consider investing

black tones and clean-looking accessories. I also think a great place to start when making a child's bedroom timeless is with clean lines in the furniture. By playing with the bedding, and adding more mature elements of style relevant to the child's age, a child's room can grow up with her."

Rhonda Fairhurst-Arevalo, interior designer, Country Living Furnishings

"You can never go wrong with a modern take on classic designs, such as the new 'reading bed' by True North, which takes up less room than its late ancestor, the 'sleigh bed.' A natural stained pine dresser will age gracefully while receiving even further distressing from your child, adding to its charm. You can coordinate this with a solid-wood student desk or beautiful writing table. A classic solid-wood blanket box doubles as a toy box and makes very smart storage for your teenager. We believe in being green by buying locally, from companies who

ROSES ARE RED. WALLS ARE, TOO.

Colour is a vital element in decorating — it sets the tone and helps establish a palette for the rest of the room.

"Paint is inexpensive and makes the biggest impact, so have fun choosing colours for your child's room," says Cat Hackman, owner of Room4Refinement.

Hackman advises parents to pick colours that suit the age and temperament of the child. "Soft pastels can be calming, while vibrant primary colours have

energy," she says. She also recommends parents take their kids' colour requests seriously, but warns not to go overboard. "Keep in mind that if your child is keen on over-the-top, crazy colours, and you just can't bear them, you can add these colours as room accents."

For young children who enjoy drawing on walls, why not paint one wall, or half a wall, in chalkboard paint? It can be drawn on and erased over and over again and will look good next to almost any paint colour.

DO

Choose furniture with longevity in mind. Buy quality chests, bookshelves and dressers that are adult-sized and built to last. Also look for pieces that can transition through different uses.

Reflect your child's age and interests with easy-to-change elements such as wall colour and accessories.

Look for organic products.

DON'T

Pollute landfills by buying disposable furniture.

Use wallpaper or painted murals — instead, try stick-on decals.

Buy toddler-size or small scale furniture that will need to be replaced more quickly.

more in pieces they will be able to take with them, like a desk or chest of drawers. Make sure there is some display space for photos, mementos and awards that can change as their interests change. Also, don't forget who you are designing that room for — make sure you have fun with it!"

