

10 Mistakes To Avoid When Decorating Your Nursery

by

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It's far too easy to go wrong when it comes to decorating the nursery. Here is a list of must-NOT-do's when it comes to preparing your newborn's nursery:

1. Creating An Unsafe Nursery Decoration Scheme

Without doubt, the number one mistake is creating an unsafe nursery decoration scheme. This is possible, believe it or not.

That's the bad news.

The good news is that if you follow the guidelines below, you can relax and stop worrying!

Nursery Decoration Safety Guidelines

- i) Ensure there are no loose ties or cords hanging from blinds or curtains. These have been known to get tied around babies' necks.
- ii) Make sure that curtains are not trailing on the floor, so avoiding tripping up.
- iii) Plug socket covers are widely available to stop little fingers wandering where they shouldn't. However, few parents consider the problem of older, more mobile babies falling and hurting their heads on the corners of floor level sockets. Once your little one starts rolling around, it is best to reposition furniture in front of sockets to prevent this minor injury.
- v) If your nursery is very small, think before you buy a rug, as you could easily trip over it in the dark. Fallen in love with the perfect rug for your baby's room? No problem – just place it under a chair, chest of drawers or the cot itself to prevent this problem.
- vi) Quilts are not to be used with children under 12 months of age, as it increases SIDS (cot death). Use a grobag (baby sleeping bag) instead.

Note:

In the past there were worries about cot bumpers being a risk factor in SIDS. Research has now found that cot bumpers do not in fact increase the risk of SIDS. (Source: Foundation for The Study of Infant Deaths. See <http://fsid.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=412> for further reassurance)

2. Getting Stressed

I get you thinking about safety, then tell you to not get stressed. Surely there's something wrong here?

What I want to convey to you is the importance of keeping things in perspective. Yes, of course it's essential to have the safest nursery possible – and this is possible if you follow the guidelines above and are vigilant once the baby has arrived.

That is the point at which you stop worrying. For some people, especially women in their first pregnancy, this can be difficult. (When I was pregnant I worried that I wouldn't be able to change a nappy. I even went round to my brother's to have a practice on my nephew!) Expecting your first baby is a real adventure into the unknown, and it's all too easy to try and control the future by getting stressed over those things – like decoration – that you *can* control. I go into more detail about this in the next 2 sections...

3. "Everything Must Match"

Nursery sets are an easy way to bring a designer look and feel to your baby's room with the minimum of effort, and there are some gorgeous ones in the Bo Baby online shop.

Things start to go wrong when the 'everything must match' goes out of control. The message board must go with the bedding which in turn must match the carpet. In fact, as you'll see in mistake number 6, colour clashes do have their place in the nursery.

4. Not Having Fun

The comedian Jack Dee does a very funny stand up routine where he describes helping his young daughter colour in a bumblebee. Long after she has lost interest and wandered off, Jack is still there, furiously creating "the best damn bumblebee in the world".

This is a silly example of something that can really help you through your pregnancy. Being creative is a great tonic for stress.

Nursery decoration should be a great way for you to let your creative side come out to play, and an effective way to relax.

So stop worrying about having the perfect nursery, and start enjoying the process of creating the most fun and welcoming baby room you can.

5. Pink Vs Blue

If you know the sex of the baby, it's tempting to plump for either a pink or blue colour scheme. If you do this, you are closing down some interesting opportunities for decorating your nursery.

Wall murals for example are a much better starting point for nursery décor. Why not theme your baby's room around our best-selling Nursery Rhymes mural, which depicts 12 best-loved nursery rhymes – each with the rhyme written out on a placard dotted around the mural.

See

http://www.bobaby-nurserydecoration.co.uk/best_detail.asp?prod_id=116&grp_id=116#prod_anchor

for more details.

6. Pastel Mania

A nursery should be a cosy, welcoming room. That's why pastels are a popular choice, and there is nothing wrong with this. However, you don't want to go overboard and end up with a bland, characterless space.

Make sure you also include some more vibrant and contrasting designs. There is a very good reason for this:

Any newborn baby's vision is underdeveloped. They can discern light and dark, and some blurry shapes. The human face (especially the parents') fast becomes a baby's number one thing to look at. Second best is any high-contrast visual. Black and white is a particularly attractive early on (did you know the best present for a new baby is a toy panda?). As eyesight develops, bold primary colours and contrasting shades become favourites as well.

Just choosing a pale colour scheme is such an easy trap to fall into, and probably the biggest mistake that so many parents-to-be make.

So don't just go for the safe, boring option of co-ordinated pastels. They make a really good background, but your baby will really want some more striking things to look at too.

7. Colour Scheme Extremes

This is the opposite end of the (colour) spectrum to the pale brigade. Taking the high-impact visuals theory too far results in a nursery interior so loud that it needs a volume control dial.

Hopefully you have got the message that a balance of calming and stimulating visuals is the best plan – after all, your little one will need to sleep at some point!

This may seem an obvious point, but I have seen some truly harsh and chaotic nursery decoration schemes. Not in the houses of ill-informed and over-enthusiastic amateur DIYers, but in glossy designers' books. Remember that interior designers have to come up with fresh, avant garde designs all the time. You do need to keep restful elements in your nursery decoration.

The moral of the story is: don't get taken in by the Emperor's New Clothes.

8. Green Eyed Monsters

I'm not talking about some weird scary wallpaper design, but making any older children jealous with the decorating for baby-to-be.

If you already have kids, the arrival of the baby is a source of mixed emotions. Children don't understand how they feel and this confusion will only add to feelings of uncertainty at this time. Getting the nursery ready presents a problem – it definitely needs doing, but you risk creating sibling rivalry before the little one has even arrived!

The solution is to involve your child(ren) in the decorating. Show them some designs and ask which ones they like. You can even let them choose one or two of the accessories (don't give young children a choice of more than 2 at a time – it overwhelms them) Make all the options items that you yourself like.

This is a great opportunity to lay it on thick about how helpful they are and how much the baby will love what they have chosen. Even if the idea of a new baby means nothing right now, once s/he has arrived you can use your elder child's involvement in the nursery decoration to help them bond ("Baby Sam just loves the bunting you chose for him")

Even better is to give the elder child something to brighten up her room. have a look at our Toddlers & Beyond section

[http://www.bobaby-nurserydecoration.co.uk/prod1.asp?ID=280&title=Kids bedroom decoration](http://www.bobaby-nurserydecoration.co.uk/prod1.asp?ID=280&title=Kids%20bedroom%20decoration)

for more ideas.

9. Decoration With A Short Shelf Life

One mistake that's easy to make is creating a babies-only environment. Fluffy rabbits might seem like a good idea now, because you are very focused on your baby as a tiny newborn. Believe me, it won't be long before you have a rampaging toddler on your hands – and those rabbits will start to look a bit past their sell-by-date.

Fortunately it is quite easy to find items that will grow with your child, such as the Aeroplanes Nursery Set. See:

<http://www.bobaby-nurserydecoration.co.uk/prod1.asp?ID=282&title=Aeroplanes%20Nursery%20Set>

for more details.

Items like this are neither completely babyish and will last a long time, representing not just quality but good value too.

10. Buying From Just Anybody

Finally, when you do decide to go ahead and decorate, be sure that you are buying from a reputable source. Ask yourself these questions:

Do they have a secure payment system?

Bo Baby uses secure socket layer technology for maximum buyer security

Do they have a phone number? Does their email address include their website name?

(Many online stores offering poor quality and bad service use email addresses ending in hotmail, gmail etc. This is a sure sign that they are not serious businesses).

Contact us at local rates on 0845 652 1842 or at info@bobaby-nurserydecoration.co.uk

Can they offer any guarantee? Not just on basic quality – what about if the products are not up to my expectations?

So confident are we about the high quality of our products, that we back every sale up by a 100% customer satisfaction guarantee. If you are not happy with any item, simply return it to us unused within 14 days (28 days from outside the UK) and we'll refund the price you paid. It is very hard to find any retailer who can provide such a cast-iron guarantee.

How much do they charge for delivery? Do I have to trawl through the shopping cart just to find out the real cost?

We offer free delivery within the UK. We've even paid the VAT on everything. This means that you know exactly what something costs on the product page.

We love hearing your comments! Please get in touch at:

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