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Kids' room needs special touch

• from DECORATING on page 3

ning your design or decorating scheme. If you have a small child, you may want to consider placing his/her bed against a wall for additional safety and to maximize floor space.

(Keep in mind that toddlers like to use a great deal of space when spreading out their toys.)

Furniture

You may want to purchase a whole set of brand new furniture or add to existing pieces. Either way, try to select furniture which will continue to meet your child's needs as he/she grows. Many types can be adjusted to suit growing children.

Choose pieces that are sturdy and durable so they won't become chipped or ruined. It's also a good idea to avoid purchasing items with sharp, protruding corners or rough edges.

Also consider furniture with built-in features. Beds

with storage bins underneath are a popular option because they make more efficient use of space.

Storage

Storage is another important factor to consider. If you're redecorating an existing room in an older home, you probably have limited closet space. While young children don't generally need a lot of room for clothes, they tend to accumulate many toys, so you may wish to buy additional storage units for this purpose.

Large toy bins or stacking storage baskets can help keep the room clutter-free. Shelves and cupboards are another option for efficient storage.

Colour

Colour plays an important role in a room, so when choosing a decorating scheme for your child's room, it's a good idea to pick something upbeat and in keeping with your youngster's preferences. Try to incorporate their favourite colours and get them involved in the planning process.

You may want to choose neutral background colours and provide highlights through accent pieces — like colourful cushions, bedding and window coverings.

That way, you can make modifications as your youngster grows and his/her tastes change.

Wallpaper is an attractive option, particularly with all the fancy borders which are now available. But if you choose this route, you may have to make modifications more frequently than you would if you had painted walls. If you want to use wallpaper, make sure you choose something that's washable, durable and can be easily removed if necessary.

Flooring

The type of flooring you choose will depend on your preferences and the age of your child. If he/she is still at the crawling stage, you'll probably want to consider installing carpeting to provide a soft, warm, skid-resistant surface. Keep in mind that course-textured carpeting may be harsh on young sensitive skin.

Area rugs are another option if you have natural wood floors you want to show off. Be sure to place an anti-slip mat beneath scatter and area rugs to help prevent falls.

If you have wooden floors, it's a good idea to check for loose boards and splinters.

For ideas on how to decorate your youngster's room, consult decorating magazines and furniture showrooms.

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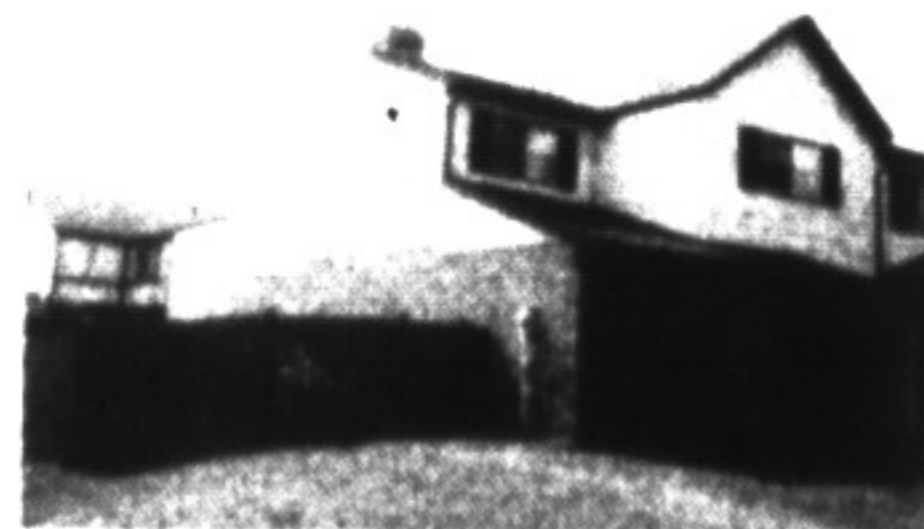
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