But, if you're at the point where it's time to replace the cradle with a bed and pass the change table onto someone else, you may want to consider converting your baby's room into a multi-purpose room that will keep your child occupied as he or she grows

When decorating a child's room, it's important to think ahead to make certain the room will accommodate his/her changing needs

Planning ahead is particularly important when choosing a colour scheme. For example, consider selecting neutral background colours for walls and carpets. You can then use accent pieces such as cushions, comforters and curtains to brighten the room. This approach makes it much easier and less expensive to adapt the room to your child's changing tastes.

If you choose to use wallpaper, it can be a wonderful way to add warmth and character to a child's room. But, keep in mind that depending on the pattern you select, you may have to re-decorate more frequently than if you stick with painted walls. When selecting wallpaper, make sure it is washable, durable and can be easily removed if necessary.

Wallpaper borders have also become a popular way to liven up a room. Bold stripes, cartoon characters and zoo animals are just a few of hundreds of fun patterns to choose from. Once again, you may have to change the borders frequently if you choose patterns your child will outgrow quickly.

More than likely, your child's room will serve as both a playroom and a bedroom. So, keep durability and comfort in mind when selecting flooring.

If you decide to carpet the room, avoid course carpeting that can be abrasive to children who are still crawling or who will spend most of the time playing on the floor. In addition, make sure you choose a dark colour since stains are more visible on lightcoloured carpeting.

Cork tiles are ideal for a playroom since they are warm and easy to maintain. Vinyl floors, made of a thick, cushioned grade, are also durable.

If you opt for wooden floors, keep an eye out for loose boards, splinters or protruding nails that could cause injury.

Planning ahead is also important when selecting furniture. Whether you're buying a whole new set of furniture or just adding to existing pieces, it's best to select furniture that can be adjusted as you child grows.

For example, there are many shelving systems and desks that can be elevated to keep pace with your child's growth. If you plan to install a shelving system, make sure you secure it against a wall so there's no chance of it falling over.

Sturdy and durable pieces of furniture are ideal for children's rooms since they don't chip easily and can stand up to heavy use. Even though this furniture may be more expensive, it's worth it to spend a little more money on pieces that will last longer.

Avoid furniture with sharp or rough edges that can injure your child. Special profective corner guards can be purchased for added protection.

If you're tight on storage space, beds with storage bins underneath are an excellent buy. Younger children usually need a lot more storage space for toys than clothes. So, keep an eye out for large plastic or wooden toy bins which are sure to come in handy. Stacking storage baskets and low-level cupboards will also help maintain order in the room.

As with every other room in your home, make sure all electrical fittings are shielded. Safety socket covers are an excellent way to ensure inquisitive little ones don't poke small metallic objects into unused electrical outlets. You should install safety latches on windows



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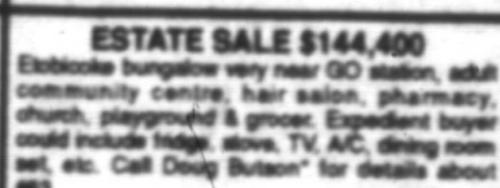
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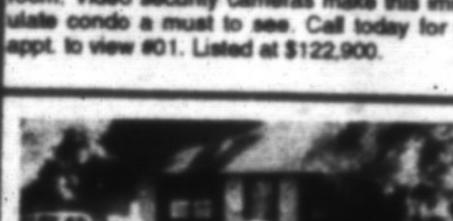
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