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HOME AND GARDEN

Colour red causes emotional response in children during pre-school years

There's one thing that the psychologists agree about and that is that young children love, and are stimulated

by, bright primary colours — warm, rather than cool. "One of the very best and most practical ways to introduce colour into a child's life from day one, is with paint," said Wendy L. Burton, director of marketing with Para Paints.

"It can be applied on walls, ceilings, furniture even the floors, in a variety of finishes. And it is as easy as ABC to repaint in another scheme as the child grows and his or her tastes change.

When a child first sees and reacts to colour seems to be a bone of contention, although some theories have it that babies as young as four months responds to, and are stimulated by, colour.

Red and yellow are the colours said to be best seen by babies. And red continues to cause emotional response during pre-school years.

Later, more subtle and sophisticated tones are preferred, the red, for girls manifesting itself into shades of pinks or purples. Boys are said to prefer blue and then red at this stage.

Just as with adults, the environment is having a strong influence on children's tastes. Teal, for example, is said to have come from the kids, perhaps because it's a combination of the green land and blue sky and water.

Because children from about age five on do have very definite ideas about colour and how they react to it (although remember that some of these may be short lived fads) it's best to let them have some input into selecting a scheme for their bedrooms.

If they want a colour that is too outrageous, it can still be incorporated as an accent colour to keep them happy.

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