

# Let children be creative

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When it comes to decorating children's bedrooms, go wild.

Or rather, let them go wild, advises Verna Leask, who operates Verna Leask Design and Contracting.

Whether it's stripes your six to 12-year-old is begging for, or a different color on each wall, let them be creative in decorating their own space, she said.

"Color is very important to kids," Leask said.

"Kids may want bright yellow or pink and black or blue, green and yellow. They may want something an adult finds disgusting. You can always close the door," she said.

Such dramatic colors are likely a desire to get away from the pastel shades mom or grandma likely chose when they were a baby, she noted.

By letting a child decorate their own space they are more likely to invite friends over, or spend time doing their homework in a room they feel comfortable in, she said.

It's also a self-esteem builder and often helps kids take more interest in keeping their rooms respectable.

Leask advises parents leery of painting an entire room unusual colors to inject some life into the room by painting a desk, dresser or bookshelf instead.

Many of these items can be picked up at a garage sale or furniture shop for little cost.

But whatever theme or colors a child chooses, parents must insist it is not a project that will be undertaken often.

"Tell them you want them to be sure (of their decision) because you're not going to be able to paint every weekend," said Leask.



When it comes to decorating kids' rooms, let them go wild, say the experts.