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Carolyn's top tips for decorating a child's room:

1. "Wallpaper is a fabulous way to quickly update children's bedrooms and give them real wow factor. You don't have to choose a childish print – opt for something contemporary and eye-catching that won't date and will grow with them."
2. "Remember to design to the scale of the person using the room. In a nursery it's important to create an intimate feel that will cocoon the baby."
3. "Storage is key: the more the merrier! And remember that it doesn't have to be hidden – open shelving creates the perfect spot to show off treasured books and toys."

room to grow

This Melbourne nursery, designed by *House Rules* mentor Carolyn Burns-McCrave, is proof positive that a child's room can be super stylish

WORDS & STYLING RUTH WELSBY PHOTOGRAPHY MARCEL AUCAR

WHEN DESIGN CONSCIOUS duo John and Larissa found out that they were expecting a baby girl, they couldn't wait to decorate her nursery. The recently renovated room was swathed in neutral tones, but lacked personality. They turned to interior designer and *House Rules* mentor Carolyn Burns-McCrave, who knew exactly what the room needed. "Amazing pink wallpaper – and I had the perfect one in mind!" says Carolyn.

Working with the room's existing white walls, taupe cupboard doors in Dulux Candle Bark and dark wool carpet from Stahmers Carpets, Carolyn wrapped the room in appealing 'Kaleido' wallpaper from Ascraft Textiles + Wallcoverings. "It works so well because it's a dusky pink, not a candy tone," she explains. "It ties all the other colours together." To avoid overwhelming the space, the wallpaper extends just to picture-rail height, while Dulux Vivid White, above, balances the scheme.

With one eye on the budget, John and Larissa selected a plush but purse-friendly wingback armchair and footstool and teamed them with a chic white floor lamp and green stacking shelves. The traditional cot takes pride of place in the middle of the room. "It feels really intimate," says Carolyn. "For baby Valentina, it also means that everywhere she looks there is something to interest her."

For more information on *Burns McCrave Design*, visit burnsmccrave.com.au or call (03) 9894 0586. Look out for Carolyn in action on Channel 7's *House Rules*.



Above: Jocelyn Warner 'Kaleido' wallpaper forms a pretty-in-pink backdrop to a 'Strandmon' armchair and matching footstool from Ikea. Books are displayed in a playful set of green vintage shelves. 