

# Animal antics

THIS MOTHER OF FIVE WANTED A RETREAT FOR HER TWO YOUNGEST CHILDREN THAT WOULD BE TRUE TO THE MONTESSORI PRINCIPLES. *Jessie Reid* REPORTS

**P**eta Gibson, a Montessori teacher of children aged up to three, and her husband Justin, a brand manager, employed Joanne McWhinney from Kids In Designed Spaces to create this space for their children, two-year-old Hunter and Estella, one.

## WHEN DID YOU START DECORATING THE ROOM?

I started decorating the room when I was pregnant with Hunter. I already had the larger furniture pieces such as the wardrobe, open shelving unit, dresser and side table, and then a girlfriend made me bunting and a quilt cover out of gorgeous patchwork fabric. I added a rocking chair, map and globes of the world, the mobile of the solar system over the dresser/change table and the toys.

In September 2009 I contacted Kids In Designed



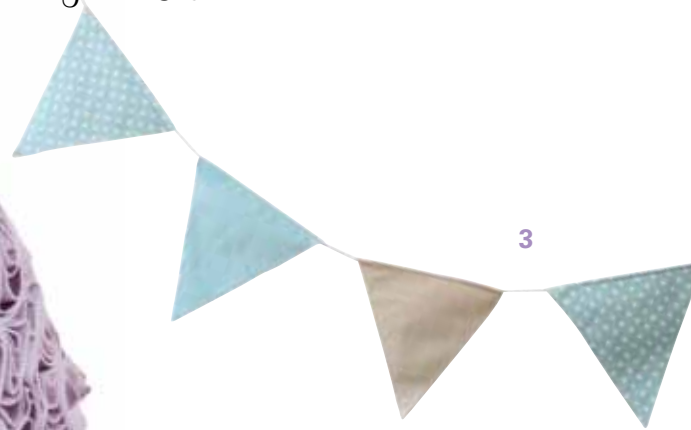
Spaces to improve the layout and appearance of the room, as I was pregnant with Estella and needed to accommodate another sleep/play area into a long, narrow room.

## WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION?

The layout and look of the room is based on Montessori principles, which include freedom of choice, an inspiring learning environment and connection with nature. The low beds allow the children to get in and out freely and safely, which is very important to me as neither of my children has ever slept in a cot. A variety of educational books and toys are readily accessible to promote learning and encourage creativity, and most items in the room reflect nature either visually or in the materials they are made of.

## HOW DID YOU SELECT THE ROOM'S COLOUR SCHEME?

The walls didn't require repainting so Kids In Designed Spaces introduced some subtle colour to the room using elements within the room as



the basis. The stripes on the walls match the existing furniture. The colours in the alphabet were taken from the world map, the patchwork fabric in the quilt cover and bunting and the new pendant light.

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?

The room is simple and beautiful but supportive of a child's development, which fits in well with my Montessori sensibilities.

## DO YOU HAVE A DESIGN MANTRA?

I love French provincial-style furniture. Existing pieces like the wardrobe, shelving and dresser/change table were selected on this basis. •





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### Get the look

- 1 Ami chair \$1,795 by Paprika & Lime ([paprikaandlime.com](http://paprikaandlime.com))
- 2 Marble pendant light \$159 by Matt Blatt ([mattblatt.com.au](http://mattblatt.com.au))
- 3 Bunting \$39.95 by Alimrose Designs ([alimrose.com.au](http://alimrose.com.au))
- 4 Wooden bear \$9.95 by Animalz ([flyingpenguin.com.au](http://flyingpenguin.com.au))
- 5 Cushions from \$29.95 each by Rapee ([rapee.com.au](http://rapee.com.au))
- 6 Wooden letters \$34.95 each from My First Room ([myfirstroom.com.au](http://myfirstroom.com.au))
- 7 Map \$90 by The Wall Sticker Company ([thewallstickercompany.com.au](http://thewallstickercompany.com.au))
- 8 Table lamp \$125 by Matt Blatt ([mattblatt.com.au](http://mattblatt.com.au))
- 9 King single bed \$1,088.95 by Boori ([boori.com.au](http://boori.com.au))
- 10 Amoire \$1,999 by Malmaison ([malmaison.com.au](http://malmaison.com.au))
- 11 Counting poster \$55 by Isak ([kindergallery.com.au](http://kindergallery.com.au))
- 12 Zebra cushion \$49 by Areaware ([kidostore.com.au](http://kidostore.com.au)).



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ALL PRICES ARE APPROXIMATE