

# KEEPING THE PEACE: SHARED BEDROOM SPACE FOR BOY AND GIRL

Most families run into this situation: A small bedroom that has to function for two kids – their stuff and their personalities. To add a bit more into the mix – the room has to be shared between a boy and a girl.

How do you arrange the sleeping areas to make sure each kid has their personal space?

How do you address the styling needs for a boy versus a girl?

How do you make the room imaginative for both kids?

How do you address the storage needs of the room?

How do you make sure there is still room for the kids to play and just be kids?

**Follow along as we give you 8 great tips to keeping the peace in a shared bedroom space**



I was called upon about three years ago by one of my best clients to create an imaginative and well put together space for their toddler boy who was about 2 at the time, and their baby girl who was just a few months old. She had just a few things on her wish list and left the rest up to me

- Using her favorite color palette of purples
- The room should not be themey or too baby-like/child-like
- As much storage as possible
- Enough floor space for play. Although they have a game room where the kids all play together, she still wanted some play area in their room
- Stylish and imaginative
- Cohesive and gender neutral

## YOU HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE



This is what we started with. A color that I can only describe as “electric blue”, a light fixture (although pretty cool) dominating the entire room, and hung way too low, and pretty much a blank slate.

## 8 TIPS FOR CREATING A SHARED BEDROOM SPACE



**Use color to add personality and define each kid's special space.**

My client wanted to use purple as the color palette. Adding an interesting paint technique of the bold horizontal stripes brings in a ton of personality and made an interesting back drop for the rest of the space. A touch of blue identified the boy side of the room, and apple green identified the girl side of the room

### **Make the room fun, imaginative and add a personal touch for each kid**

The “alphabet soup” on the walls was a great way for the kids to learn the alphabet. Although the letters were placed at random, it was a good way for them to identify letters out of order. You will notice that on each wall, each child's name is spelt out in their special color. The custom upholstered headboards also were created to mimic the shape of leaves, and the custom duvet covers were full of jungle animals that they could search for and identify.

### **Go vertical.**

This is a great way to add storage to any room. I always try to bring in vertical bookcases into kids' rooms as storage for books and toys





### **Create storage from what would otherwise be wasted space**

I had the bed and bookcases custom built on site with storage drawers underneath each bed. But I didn't stop there: I also created storage between each bed with a custom window seat with additional storage inside. This is a great place for story time!

### **Edit and store stuff outside of the room if possible**

You will notice that the bookcases are not cluttered and have just a few of the things they use a lot. For this bedroom, I also commissioned custom built-ins inside the closet (not shown). This is where most of the books and toys they don't use every day are kept. They also have a game room nearby for larger toys

### **Leave enough floor space for play time**

Kids love to hang out in their rooms. Even if there are other play areas in the home, they still need a good amount of floor space to play and just be kids. Make sure the area is either carpeted or use an area rug to make it nice and soft for little knees.

### **Make it Artful and Inspiring**

My clients once owned an art gallery, so they have an appreciation for original art and want to teach their kids how to collect great works by great artists. We commissioned this original piece "*Mother and Child*" by Virginia artist Duane Cregger. 24×36 oil and mix media on canvas. You can view it on his website [here](#). It does not have to be a commissioned art piece that you use to make the room artful and inspiring. You can have the kids paint their own original works of art and frame them to infuse their own personalities.



Mother and Child - By Duane Cregger



### **Fun and Interesting Lighting**

Kids love to read in bed, so having lots of lighting in the room is great. Instead of going with basic fixtures, it is a great opportunity to bring in fun and interesting lighting. Here I chose a sunburst chandelier to maximize lighting along with 2 wall sconces.



Here you really get to see that adding built-ins are a great way to maximize the space in a room. They are an investment, but a similar look can be obtained by using modular bookcases from Ikea



I went with fully custom bedding in this room, but the same look can be accomplished with off-the-shelf bedding from online retailers like Land of Nod and West Elm etc. Make sure the fabrics are easy to care for



For the headboard and the window seat cushion, I went with fabrics that can be wiped clean. They are kids after all, and you want them to enjoy their space without you having to worry about them ruining stuff.



I personally think that having kids share a bedroom is a great way for them to develop a special bond. It is important however to keep the peace by making sure that each child has their own defined space, packed with their personality.

## NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

I have 10 siblings – 8 of them I grew up with in the same household with only two bedrooms! Talk about shared spaces! I look back now with smiles on my face as I remember the many adventures we had – Staying up late telling ghost stories, or planning our next mischief. Those were great times in my life that I will always treasure.

I hope the tips and information will get and the kids excited to create that world of wonder for them. Where they too can look back years from now with smiles on their faces.

We are here for you if you still need help creating that perfect space for your kids

**BOOK A CONSULTATION NOW!**



[www.CasaViloraInteriors.com](http://www.CasaViloraInteriors.com)

## RESOURCES

Custom Bedding, Window Treatments and Window Seat – Casa Vilora Interiors

Custom Headboards – Parsons Chairs

Light Fixture – Global Views

Sconces – Lamps Plus

Built-Ins – Brick House Construction

Green Dresser – Steinworld

Art – Duane Cregger

Accessories – Home Goods

Books – Katy Budget Books

### **Other Resources For Kids Furnishings**

Land of Nod – Furniture and Bedding

West Elm – Furniture and Bedding

Stone & Leigh Furniture - Furniture

Pottery Barn Kids – Furniture and Bedding

Minted – Art

Ikea – Furniture and Bedding

RugsUSA - Rugs