

5 TIPS FOR A NEAT & TIDY HOME

Hey Montgomery's Founder & Creative Director, Samantha Johnson, shares how to keep clutter under control even with messy young ones.

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their items are to be kept in those zones and will hover and play within those spaces, better still, after play time, they can help return and organise the items. Remember, everything should have a place, communicate this so the whole family can follow the lead daily.

Buy items thoughtfully

I know the urge to buy every "OMG I love it" thing you see when out browsing or online shopping. However, please don't impulse buy. You need to think of the overall vibe you are trying to achieve in your space then research and compare your options. Think about the mood, colours and the budget first before decorating your family or child's room, keep aside more budget for big ticket items such as beds and comfortable seating.

Make use of storage solutions

Storage is the number one topic our clients want to address. Most parents hate the sight of unsightly plastic monstrosities children tend to gather over the years. First things first, clear out and organise the toys your child actually uses and bless or sell the rest. Think about the end result, then buy storage that will fit the items. Label them well to help your kids find their toys and even more importantly, help the young ones put their things away. Measure your space, then select long-lasting and good-looking storage options that are functional. Do also plan ahead. You don't want storage to fill up with rubbish when you can use the space for something else like a reading corner.

Create a kids zone

Ok, so no one wants their entire home to be filled with clutter as soon as they walk through the door—a little zen would be most welcome! Create a kids zone in your home, if you live on one storey, this could be your child's own space or a small area in the living room. If you live on more than one level, section off an area on each storey. Safely secure a simple, muted and low storage unit that you can use for organising toys, label and use it for your child's favourite toys of the moment. Add a forward-facing bookshelf above for child-friendly access.

Make use of stackable crates that can be moved around the home easily and rotate the toys. Over time, your child will learn that





Disguise those cables

The cables that come along with the gadgets we have at home now can certainly be messy and hazardous when they are not properly hidden away from children. Think about your space functionally before you make a purchase and don't forget about the cables; how will they be hidden? Before buying furniture, think about their location against your electric points and ensure all your electrical items will reach the points easily with minimum cable clutter. It's best to plan ahead and think about how you'd cover those danger zones, instead of having to block the space with a makeshift or ugly item down the line.

Create the right atmosphere

Have you ever walked into a room and felt overwhelmed or, alternatively, calm and relaxed? Aim to give your child the best experience possible by helping them create a space that gives them everything they need to engage, play and relax. We all know how frustrating it can be when we can't find something. Children will enjoy their space more when they are able to understand where their precious doll is or that tiny car that always goes missing. A space is more than a place where things are kept, it is a sanctuary where children can play, feel safe and engage with their family. It's amazing what some thought and organisation can do for your child's well-being. With a little effort, your child's space could be inspiring.

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Try to avoid buying the same old or easiest option when revamping your child's space, think outside the box.



Dolly Natural Wide Bookcase by Leanne Ford, \$1,299. Available at Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.com.sg



Tufted Decor, contact Little Kome for details, [instagram.com/little.kome](https://www.instagram.com/little.kome)



Wonderland Rainbow Children's A4 Print, £35 (approx. \$60.30). Available at Wonder & Rah, wonderandrah.co.uk



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