

How To Keep A Beautiful Home with Young Kids



By: Alisa Brown

Abstract

Keeping a beautiful home with young kids requires a blend of organization, creativity, and flexibility. Focus on creating functional spaces that can withstand the wear and tear of daily life. Invest in durable, easy-to-clean furniture and decor, and consider child-friendly design elements like soft edges and non-toxic materials. Establish clear routines for tidying up, involving your kids in age-appropriate chores to instill responsibility and ownership. Embrace the messiness of childhood while finding balance through regular decluttering and organization sessions. Above all, prioritize creating a warm, loving environment where memories are made, knowing that a bit of chaos is part of the journey.

1. Introduction

Maintaining a beautiful home with young children is a delicate balancing act that requires a combination of practicality and creativity. While it's natural for chaos to ensue when little ones are around, there are strategies you can employ to create a space that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional for your family's needs. First and foremost, prioritize durability when selecting furniture and decor. Opt for pieces that are built to withstand the inevitable spills, bumps, and scribbles that come with having kids. Stain-resistant fabrics, sturdy materials like wood or metal, and easy-to-clean surfaces will save you time and stress in the long run. Incorporate child-friendly design elements throughout your home to ensure safety without sacrificing style. Rounded edges on furniture, non-toxic finishes, and secure storage solutions for hazardous items like cleaning supplies or sharp objects are essential considerations. Additionally, choose decor items that are both visually appealing and safe for curious little hands to explore.

2. Stylish Ways to Kid-Proof a Family Home

Just because you have kids doesn't mean you have to give up your personal style or get rid of your fancy coffee table (unless it has sharp corners—then you may need to compromise). Admittedly, though, it takes a keen eye to figure out how to create a space that's both sophisticated and sippy cup-friendly. So we asked top interior designers for family home and kid-proof decor ideas, and they delivered. So read through their tips and get inspired by these twenty examples of kid-proof interiors that still manage to be elevated and timeless.

Frame Your Kid's Art

Frame your children's best masterpieces and display them with pride. This will help you keep their masterpieces forever and it can look refined when professionally done with clean, modern frames and then arranged in a classic floor-to-ceiling grid. Take note from this charming contemporary family room designed by Lilly Bunn, where colorful art animates the entire space.

Branch Out from Pink or Blue

Color and pattern are always welcome in kid's rooms, where playing and fun are encouraged. But that doesn't mean you need to work within the narrow gendered border's of pink and blue. In this bedroom designed by Studio Lifestyle, the fun green wallpaper emits a calming yet exciting energy while the play structure-inspired bunkbeds ensure endless activity.

Display Books Like Art

In this magical reading room that doubles as a guest room for sleepovers, the shelves are designed to display book covers. "So many covers have great graphic images," designer Ann Wolf says. "This way you can have a changing art gallery on your shelves." In a kids room, it would allow the occupant to easily pick out the book they want to read without an adult's help.

Open Up the Floor Plan

If your space needs to accommodate a large or growing family, consider an open dining, family room, and game room which will allow you to keep an eye on your kids and spend more quality time together. To help the spaces look and feel consistent, consider using a neutral color palette with some edgy (but smooth!) finishes, as done in this space by Alexander Design.

Opt For a Wood Dining Table

Take notes from this dining room table. The rustic wood surface and splatter-paint detail celebrate the fact that there's a kid in the house in Adelaide. As designer Barrie Benson explains, "solid wood can handle food all over it and has no sharp edges." Veneer, on the other hand, can easily get trashed, while glass will show every smear and smudge.

Display Family Photos Thoughtfully

Homepolish designer Crystal Sinclair advises parents to "keep family photos in a more personal space, like a hall leading to bedrooms or maybe a playroom." That way, the main rooms can stay a little cleaner and more sophisticated. And if it bums you out to hide your family photos, "make books highlighting vacations or special occasions and carefully select a

neutral book cover to work with any interior design scheme," she suggests. "Then proudly display the books in a common space for any who's interested in looking through them."

Display Found Objects

"Rocks such as geodes are beautiful and enhance any home—and can take some hits and spills without damage," Sinclair says. If that's not your style, another good option is to bring in other super kid-proof decor like garden statues. Found items options also tend to be more affordable than investing in fancy decor.

Designate an "Adult-Only" Room

If you have enough space in your home, it's okay to designate a few "adults-only" rooms. For example, a casual breakfast nook in the kitchen can function as a gathering place for everyday meals, while the dining room can be reserved for special occasions and dinner parties. The same can be done with a casual family room and a more formal living room.

Choose Your Wallpaper Wisely

"Silks are not kid friendly—dirty hands and spills can ruin a silk real fast. The same true for some grasscloth papers. Kids love to pull on things and these are so enticing to curious eyes and fingers," says Sinclair. Instead, try wallpapering your ceiling for a fun (but conveniently out-of-reach) accent or opt for a removable wallpaper that isn't as precious—and not intended to last forever anyway, like Barrie Benson did in McCullough's home here.

Don't Sweat The Small Stuff

"There are dings where my kids banged on it with a spoon," McCullough says about this dining table in her North Carolina family home. "And now I look at those marks and remember when they did that. I like things to have a patina, to show they've been loved." Kid-proofing your home isn't always about genius hacks and styling tricks. Sometimes, it's just a mindset shift.

Give Kids' Rooms a Timeless Look

When decorating a kid's bedroom or one of the common areas like a playroom or media room that'll grow up with them, it's all about investing in classic pieces, so you don't have to switch it over and over again. Spice it up to their liking with smaller accents that are easier to swap when they grow out of the look. "It's all a balance; you give them reign over the smaller accents while taking control of the items that will be in the room year in and year out," Crystal Sinclair explains.

3. Organize A Home With Kids In Mind

Family life is always going to be a little bit chaotic when you've got children in the mix, let's face it. But that's not to say you give up on the dream of an organized home. A simple switch in mindset – how to organize a home with kids in mind – is all it takes to gain (at least some) control back.

We're not saying you're going to achieve a 'perfect' home and routine overnight, nor do you need to. In fact, one thing the most organized families have in common is that they don't strive for perfection. Simple child-friendly strategies employed little and often are the key, along with staying motivated regardless of what the day (and your kids) might throw at you.

'Employing kid-friendly home organizing ideas transforms the daily chaos into a streamlined routine – spending less time on the scavenger hunt for misplaced items and more time on what truly matters – quality family moments', says Karina Toner, Spekless Cleaning.

How To Organize A Home With Kids In Mind

It's important to acknowledge that while quick and easy home organizing ideas are appealing, safety must always remain the number one priority in family homes, particularly those with very little ones. If you're organizing a home for a new baby, be sure to familiarize yourself with baby-proofing and adjust your systems accordingly if you need to.

To help, we've put together some fail-safe ways to organize a home with kids in mind, approved by experts and parents alike.

1. CUT BACK ON 'STUFF'

Regardless of whether you live with little ones or not, decluttering is the first step towards a well-organized home. As well as scheduling in your own decluttering sessions, encourage children to declutter toys regularly. It's a great family house rule for tidier kids, plus makes maintenance a lot easier – the more possessions they (and you) have, the more challenging it is to keep on top of things.

'While it doesn't hurt for a grown-up to initiate decluttering, including children is important if you don't want them to fear the process in the future. Getting them involved will help them get used to the feeling of letting go', says professional organizer Vicky Silverthorn of You Need a Vicky.

She also makes the point that children (just like adults) can quickly become overwhelmed by decluttering when confronted with time constraints and decisions. 'To prevent this from happening, consider creating a small box of items they need to look through and make decisions on themselves. This will help them to feel in control of their own belongings'.

2. GIVE EVERYTHING A HOME

How much time a day do you spend looking for things? Primarily your kids' things, we should say. We're going to guess it's a lot. The most organized families designate a home for everything, right down to the very last lego piece, so everyone can find what they need quickly and easily, resulting in fewer tantrums all round.

'Remember that kids think pretty literally, so choose somewhere logical based on what the item is and how often you use it. It also helps to group similar items together; school clothes, medicines, stationery, jigsaws etc. Showing them what goes where is worthwhile, but there's every chance they won't remember – opt for clear storage bins so they can see for themselves', says Millie Hurst, Solved section editor, Homes & Gardens.

3. PREP FOR PAPERWORK

'Having effective management strategies for getting rid of paper clutter that comes home from schools, nurseries clubs and so on, will make a massive difference to your parenting mental load, not to mention the tidiness of your home', says Frances Bradley, founder of online homewares store, Lello Living.

'Give incoming paperwork an arrival space (a shallow in tray works well for admin, but you might need bigger boxes for artwork and creations), then spend 5 minutes each day sorting through what needs to be actioned, recycled, or filed. A pinboard on the inside of a cupboard door keeps to-do lists tidy and within easy reach, while frame boxes (like these from Amazon) are great for displaying and storing kid's artwork at the same time', she adds.

4. USE LABELS

Whether you're organizing for adults or children, labels are always a good idea. How you go about your labeling however, will depend on the age range in your household in Adelaide.

'If your child is of reading age, label boxes clearly and simply so they know when things belong. You might want to think about adding pictures, too. This helps them recognise the words, plus means younger children can join in, even if they can't read just yet', says award-winning author and childcare expert, Kathryn Lord.

5. KEEP SYSTEMS SIMPLE

If you want to stand a chance of children contributing, or at the very least respecting your home organizing ideas, you'll need to keep things simple.

'Think about how you can make the system appeal to your kids, as well as to you, by incorporating colors and pictures for example, to make things as easy as possible for them. If

it's too complicated or there are too many steps, they simply won't stick to it', advises Frances Bradley.

This rule also applies to your kid's room ideas. 'Take organizing children's clothes for example', says Frances. 'Folding clothes the Marie Kondo way (also known as 'file folding') and storing them in drawers means they can be easily accessed without having to pull everything out. Drawer inserts (like these from Wayfair) also go some way towards containing categories', she says.

6. HIDE STORAGE IN PLAIN SIGHT

Whether it's bright plastic toys, stacks of sportswear, or half-finished craft kits, you don't want unsightly items strewn around the house, so you'll need decent storage ideas – and lots of them. Bright and fun kid's bedroom storage ideas have their place, but they don't suit every room, so you'll need to think creatively – and stylishly – if you want to keep things under wraps.

'Sophisticated storage ideas do exist, trust me! Opt for elegant, low-profile storage units that are accessible to children. Consider beautifully crafted baskets or designer bins that complement your home's aesthetic while being practical', says Amy Johnson, parent of two and founder of successful parenting blog, Amy Baby.

7. OPT FOR OPEN STORAGE

'Whether you're organizing a kid's bedroom, organizing a playroom or another multi-purpose space, use open storage where you can', says Lauren, founder of Not a Boring Box. 'Baskets with handles are great as they're easy to pull out and your kids won't have to struggle with lids. Best of all, they can literally throw it all back in it when it comes to tidy up time'.

8. SET UP DROP ZONES FOR TOYS IN EVERY ROOM

When it comes to organizing toys (or anything child-related for that matter), allocating homes in a designated room of the house makes sense in Adelaide. Are they likely to stay there all the time... Probably not, let's face it. Pre-empt the inevitable and set up designated baskets to catch clutter throughout the day.

'In our home, we like to call them 'chaos buckets', says Frances Bradley. 'If it's clutter, a problem, or something that doesn't have a home, it gets scooped up into one of these and then we deal with them once a week (or when we have a spare moment). They fold flat when not in use so they're unobtrusive, it makes the tidy up quicker and cuts down on misplaced items', she says.

9. KEEP CHILD-RELATED ITEMS WITHIN EASY REACH – AND VICE VERSA

If your children constantly need help accessing items they need around the house it can be pretty frustrating, not just for them but for you too. Assess each room and reserve low-level storage for toys, remotes, lunch bags, water bottles, etc, to save yourself running back and forth all the time.

'Placing children's things at their height gives them the opportunity to do things for themselves. Encouraging good habits will mean they become independent adults and helpful to you along the way – family life is all about teamwork, after all', explains Kathryn Lord.

Similarly, assign top-level storage for lesser used items, or anything you don't want them getting hold of without supervision; messy craft sets, sweet snacks, age-restricted toys and so on.

10. ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO GET INVOLVED

It's not easy to declutter your home when your family isn't on board, we admit. It's probably easier just to take the load on yourself, right? Wrong. According to the pros, you're not doing yourself – or your children – any favors. You're much better off encouraging your family to declutter with you.

'By making tidiness a collective goal, you not only lighten the load on individual shoulders but also nurture a sense of pride in contributing to the well-being of the entire household, a life lesson they can carry through into adulthood', says Karina Toner.

4. Make Kids More Organized

Limit Keepsakes

Some children let go of things easily, but for those who are stubborn about saving every little thing, offer up a "limiting container." They can keep all of the keepsakes they want, as long as they fit in a certain box, or on a certain shelf.

Stick to a Routine

It helps to deliberately verbalize the steps of your morning and evening routines with kids. Post a checklist on a bathroom mirror or bedroom wall for things like packing lunch, gathering homework, and getting dressed. Bedtime habits are important to emphasize because they pave a smoother path to sleep.

Ask for Kids' Help

Let kids feel empowered by having them help you plan your errands before leaving the house in Adelaide. Have them help solve the puzzle of pinpointing the fastest route around town — and note logistical roadblocks, like making sure frozen food doesn't melt or pets won't be left in the car. Make it interesting with a stop for frozen yogurt as a reward.

Give Toys a Clear Value

The A-B-C-D prioritization tool works for everything: An "A" toy is a favorite one that you love and play with all the time (as often as you eat or brush our teeth). "B" toys are ones you play with a lot (as often as we go to the supermarket). "C" toys are those you don't play with very much (as often as we have a birthday or holiday). "D" toys are ones you really are not playing with at all. And D stands for "donate!" Show kids that we want to store our A and B toys where we can reach them and put them away easily, and our C toys up higher in a box or on a shelf.

Teach the "One In, One Out" Rule

When you get a new toy or new jeans, the old ones can be donated. Kids need to understand that storage is finite, and that continuing to collect eventually leads to clutter and chaos. They should also learn that donating helps people and the planet. Kids can use the calculator at donate.goodwill.org to find out what their donations actually do for people in their communities. Birthdays and holidays are especially good times to teach the concept of "out with the old, in with the new."

Give Every Item a Home

Just like we have a home, our stuff needs to have a home, too. Labeling containers can help kids understand where their things belong, and smaller kids can benefit from having picture labels along with words. When kids ask you to find something, point out to them that you know where it is because it has a home. That's why we have to put things back after using them, so we can find them again!

Categorize Everything

When I was growing up, I learned the Sesame Street song, "One of These Things is Not Like the Other." Four objects were presented: Three had a common theme, and the other item did not belong. For example, three were fruit, like an apple, banana, and orange, and the other object was a pencil. By the time I finished the song, I had chosen which one didn't belong. Look for opportunities, like this one, to teach categorizing to kids, as it is a crucial skill in sorting and organizing.

Raise Smart Shoppers

Teach kids to listen to commercials and read signs with a critical eye. How is this commercial trying to trick you into wanting what they are selling? Do you really NEED to collect all four or have one in every color? Just because something is on sale, does that mean it really saves you money? Preventing clutter is half the battle, and kids who can be discerning consumers will be smarter with their space and their money

Use Lists

You can make packing lists for kids when you are going on a trip, or have them help you make shopping and to-do lists. Kids love to cross things off and you're teaching them how to organize their thoughts. Lists can also be helpful for reducing your need to nag when there are several tasks that need to be done.

5. Keeping A House Clean With Kids

Being a mum of young children can be a difficult task, especially when it comes to keeping the house tidy and organised. With toys and clothes constantly piling up in a small space, it can become a daunting task to stay on top of everything. I'll share some tips and tricks to help you keep on top of your housework while also providing easy and affordable storage solutions for toys and clothes.

INVOLVE THE KIDS IN CHORES

One of the best ways to keep your house clean and organised with kids is to involve in Adelaide them in your daily chores, or as I like to call them, daily tasks. Not only will they learn valuable household skills, but it can also serve as a fantastic bonding opportunity for you and your children.

For example, have your older children help you with the dishes or have them dust the furniture. Give your younger children an age-appropriate task like picking up toys off the floor. Doing this creates a sense of teamwork and responsibility within your family while also getting things done around the house.

Most children are much more willing to participate in tidying when it's fun for them. Try creating a song, playing music, timing them or making it a race to inspire them. It's a much more effective method than simply ordering them around.

I did this with my kids. I remember when the twins were still crawling, perhaps 11 months old. We would sing a packing up song as we were tidying up the toys, totally made up "we are packing up the toys, we are packing up the toys, packing packing packing up, packing up the toys' makes it fun and joyful.

CREATE A CLEANING SCHEDULE

Creating a cleaning schedule is a great way to balance your household tasks and responsibilities, especially when it comes to keeping the house clean and organised with kids. It can be overwhelming to tackle everything at once, so creating a daily or weekly schedule will help you stay on track.

Set specific days for specific tasks like laundry, dusting, and vacuuming. By doing this, you'll be able to tackle one task at a time without feeling overwhelmed.

Using my ultimate cleaning checklist each week can transform the mundane task of house cleaning in Adelaide into an exciting game with the kiddies. This allows the kids to take part in everyday household chores, encouraging them to be responsible while also having fun ticking off completed tasks. Each tick signifies a small victory, adding an element of gratification to the cleaning process for you and for them. For us mums, this not only lessens our load but also creates an opportunity for constructive family time.

EASY AND AFFORDABLE STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Organising your children's toys and clothes can be a challenge, but it doesn't have to be. There are several easy and affordable storage solutions that you can make at home. For example, turn an old bookshelf into a toy storage area by adding baskets or bins to hold your children's toys. It's simple to accumulate an excess of toys for the kids. However, establishing a guideline for yourself to only acquire what can be accommodated in a specified space will also assist in maintaining your budget.

You can also use a hanging shoe organiser to store toys or small clothes items like socks or underwear. Another great idea is to use a tension rod in a closet for hanging clothes, or use plastic crates for storing larger items like blankets or bedding.

MAKE USE OF VERTICAL STORAGE

If you're short on space, then making use of vertical storage is key. Wall-mounted shelves or storage systems like pegboards are great for storing items such as books, toys, and kitchen items. You can also use over-the-door shoe organisers for organising small items like hair accessories or craft supplies. By using vertical storage, you're taking advantage of unused space in your home.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MULTITASKING

Lastly, taking advantage of multitasking can help you get more done in a shorter amount of time. For example, while you're cooking dinner, have your kiddies help you set the table or wipe down the counters. While you're folding laundry, have your children help you sort the

clothes by type or by family member. By doing this, you're making the most of your time while also including your children in your daily tasks.

Keeping on top of housework and organising your children's toys and clothes can be a challenge, but with a few simple tips and tricks, it can be done. You can create a tidy and organised living space by involving your children in your daily tasks, creating a cleaning schedule, and using easy and affordable storage solutions. Remember, multitasking is key these small changes can make a big difference in your day-to-day life and will help you create a happier and more organised home for you and your family.

6. How To Clean Upholstery Stains Effectively?

It is a well-known fact that upholstery is one of the toughest things to clean in homes. People spend a lot of time on furniture, such as the couch, and that is why they get dirty often. The more time you spend on it, the sooner it will gather dirt and perhaps develop a few stains. Plus, no matter how careful you are, there will be instances where you will end up spilling something. This makes cleaning them very crucial. It is recommended to hire end of lease cleaners in Adelaide if you are leaving your rental property soon for an effective furniture clean-up. But for other times, learning a few cleaning techniques will prove to be a game changer for you. Here is how to clean upholstery stains effectively. Follow these methods to ensure the stains stay away from your upholstery at all times.

1. Find Out The Stain Type And Act Quickly

Time plays a crucial role when it comes to dealing with upholstery stains and cleaning your couch. The quickly you tackle a stain, the easier it will be to remove it. Firstly, identify the stain type. It can be anything from a coffee stain to an ink stain or something else. Every stain is different and requires a different approach to prevent it from aggravating. Knowing the nature of the stain for preparing an appropriate cleaning solution is vital. Separate the oil-based and water-based stains to deal with them effectively.

2. Use The Blotting Technique

After spotting a fresh stain, your first instinct might be to forcefully rub it. However, that can make the situation worse by spreading the stain further into the fabric. This will make the cleaning process even more challenging. That is why most expert end of lease cleaners in Adelaide consider the blotting technique a far better option. Take a clean, porous cloth or paper towel and then press it delicately onto the stain. This way, the cloth will absorb the stain without pressing it deep. Start from the stain's outer edges and gently work your way to the centre. Remember to change to the cloth's clean area as it absorbs the stain.

3. Prepare An Appropriate Cleaner

Arguably, the most important thing determining the success of stain removal is your choice of cleaning solution. It is recommended to use a homemade and eco-friendly cleaning solution for maximum benefits. Not only are they optimal for the job, but they also help you reduce waste. Remember that the cleaner must be suitable for the stain type and the upholstery's fabric. If not, it can negatively impact the fabric, possibly ruining and reducing its visual appeal. There are plenty of DIY options. You can prepare a cleaning solution using a mixture of mild detergent and water or water and vinegar. It is essential to test the solution before applying it to the upholstery to prevent damage. Conduct a test on hidden areas using the solution to see if it causes damage or discolouration.

4. Use The Solution On Upholstery

Once you have identified and prepared the right cleaning solution for your upholstery and the stain, it is time to use it. Do not forget to follow the instructions on the label of the fabrics. Next, use the cleaning solution by following these steps:

Apply the solution to the stained area.

Gently work it onto the fabric with the help of a clean cloth or sponge.

Start with the outer areas and move inwards.

Just pour a little solution at a time, as too much of it will lead to excessive moisture in the padding.

Use circular motions along with gentle pressure to lift off the stain without doing any damage to the fabric fibres.

5. Rinse The Solution From Upholstery

Once you have applied the DIY cleaner and worked on the stain, completely rinsing the area is equally important. Rinsing with clean water helps in thoroughly removing the solution as well as the remainder of the stains from the fabric. Blot the area using a clean cloth and let it absorb the rinsed solution. Keep repeating the process of rinsing and blotting until the cleaners and the loosened stain particles are eliminated completely. Before moving on to the next step, ensure no residues are left on the upholstery.

6. Let The Upholstery Dry

Lastly, expert end of lease cleaners in Adelaide recommend letting your upholstery dry. It is a key step in making the fabric look neat and clean and keeping it free of stains. Before using it again and placing it back on the furniture, let it air dry for the required time. To facilitate the drying process, it is recommended to keep your upholstery in an area that is well-

ventilated and has abundant airflow. Make sure that it is completely dry, as that will help prevent any potential growth of mildew resulting from residual moisture. Finally, avoid drying it through direct sunlight, which may cause it to fade or even lead to uneven drying.

Conclusion

In conclusion, maintaining a beautiful home with young children requires a blend of practicality, creativity, and love. By prioritizing durability, safety, and organization, you can create a space that is both functional and visually appealing. Involve your children in the process, teaching them the value of responsibility and teamwork. Embrace the messiness of childhood as a natural part of family life, finding beauty in the memories and moments shared within your home. Ultimately, it's the love and warmth that you cultivate within your family that truly make your house a beautiful place to call home in Adelaide.

References:

20 Stylish Ways to Kid-Proof a Family Home, According to Designers | House Beautiful, Retrieved 15 May 2024, from

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/design-inspiration/g1286/family-friendly-decorating-tips/>

How to organize a home with kids in mind | Homes And Gardens, Retrieved 15 May 2024, from

<https://www.homesandgardens.com/solved/how-to-organize-a-home-with-kids-in-mind>

15 Genius Linen Closet Organization Ideas | Good Housekeeping, Retrieved 15 May 2024, from

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/organizing/g2911/linen-closet-organization-tricks/>

How To Keep The House Clean And Organised With Kids | The Organised Housewife, Retrieved 15 May 2024, from

<https://theorganisedhousewife.com.au/cleaning/cleaning-routines/how-to-keep-the-house-clean-and-organised-with-kids/>

How To Clean Upholstery Stains Effectively? | Bond Cleaning In Adelaide, Retrieved 15 May 2024, from

<https://www.bondcleaninginadelaide.com.au/how-to-clean-upholstery-stains-effectively/>