



Decorating Children's Rooms

Decorating a child's room is the perfect opportunity to have some fun while creating window treatments. Rather than the everyday swag and jabot here's a chance to use unusual hardware and fabric to create a window treatment that works with a theme.

Sports themes are always very popular for young children and not just for boys anymore. The Get Happy line from Resin Solutions has six new finials in the shape of balls, a football, baseball, golf ball, soccer ball, tennis ball and basketball. For a baseball themed room hang full length drapes with from the baseball finial rod and add a triangle valance to the top of the drape using pennants of your child's favorite team. For a basketball or football room have cotton drapes in a solid color of your choice made, and stencil the team logo or favorite player number onto them.

Kids love the idea of living in a jungle. Jazz up this theme by using bamboo or faux bamboo rods with palm leaf finials. Make a valance out of netting or rough linen and add a faux fur header. Use small stuffed animals such as a monkey with extra long arms to attach the valance to the rod. (Sew the monkey's feet to the panel and sew its arms around the rod.) Another idea is to use tropical birds as a theme. Get plastic tropical birds, such as toucans at the craft store. Make a striped valance matching the colors in the birds and then sew the birds onto different sections of the valance.

For the Prince and Princess ruling your world have a semi round crown cornice board made and cut the top of it into the shape of a crown. Then attach dark purple velvet panels or light pink sheers underneath them.

Using a pressed fiberboard called FirmaFlex™, your drapery workroom can create any shape you want.

What child wouldn't love a window treatment that lights up? A shaped cornice board is the perfect vehicle for this type of treatment. After determining where the fabric will go on the cornice board put a number of small grommets in the fabric. Once it has been attached to the plywood drill through the front of the grommet all the way through the plywood creating a complete hole in the treatment. Then string small Christmas lights across the back of the board sticking lights up through each grommated hole.

Another way to get a treatment to light up is to use fabric that actual lights-up. A Swiss textile company and Caen Spa, a technological electronics company, have collaborated to create Luminex® Fabric a fabric that literally plugs into the wall and lights up. Optic fibers are woven into plain fabrics and connected to LED's. The fabric can be cut and sewn like any regular fabric and any type of window treatment or drapery tie-back can be made out of it You can buy it direct from the Luminex site at www.luminex.it.

Window treatments for a teenager's room can be just as much fun a small child's. Retro is always a popular theme and if you can't find a modern retro fabric, consider buying an actual vintage textile or textile reproduction. www.Contemporarycloth.com is an excellent website for vintage and retro textiles. One of their collections consists of 20 different fabrics of ultra skinny fashionable women from the 1960's. Use one of these fabrics to create a valance and hang it over a pair of goo goo boots. For a more hippie look, and a really fun project, buy lengths of solid cotton fabric and tie dye it in one or more colors. Then have drapes made from the fabric and overlay them with long bead curtains which can still be found at most craft stores.

Does your child like movies or books? Create your own movie or book montage with plain white fabric and your computer. Download movie pictures from the internet or scan book covers into your computer. Print the pictures onto iron on paper, lay them out onto the fabric, and iron on a large fabric collage. Buy old movie reels on E-Bay and use them as part of the treatment.

One last idea for a child of any age is to create a 3-D effect. Dofix Inc. makes several fabric stiffeners which they sell to drapery workrooms. When ironed onto fabrics it becomes extremely stiff. If using a fabric with a large decoration the pieces can be individually cut out of the fabric and attached to your drape or valance so they look as if they are coming out of the fabrics.

Children and teenagers have fantastic imaginations so don't hesitate to get their ideas while decorating their windows. Any good workroom can help you make your treatments come to life.