# The New York Times

# How to Contain Your Children's Clutter

Working from home during a pandemic is stressful enough without having to constantly pick up after your children. Here's how to avoid it.



When designing any child's room — even a nursery — "we usually approach it as, 'How can they grow into this space?'" said the designer Jay Jeffers, who suggested choosing colors and furniture that a child won't quickly outgrow. Matthew Millman

# Plan for the Future

Children's interests evolve rapidly, so try to leave some flexibility in the storage plan.

"We usually approach it as, 'How can they grow into this space?'" said Jay Jeffers, a San Francisco-based interior designer.

Specifically, Mr. Jeffers said, he cautions clients about designing children's rooms that are too juvenile or cutesy. "New moms might be excited to do a whole nursery in pink for a baby girl," he said. "But then they're redoing it in four years," as the child outgrows the style.

Containers with simple designs and colors — rather than ones that resemble animals or are in pastel shades — more easily make the transition from plush toys to sports equipment when the time comes.

Mr. Jeffers also tries to anticipate future needs. "We always want a desk" — specifically, a desk with drawers — he said, even for young children, as they will eventually need a study space.

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