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ROOM WITH A VIEW Creating optimal office space for your kids

HOME OFFICE TIP SETTING UP A DEDICATED OFFICE SPACE FOR KIDS IS A GOOD IDEA, BUT MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET DISTRACTED BY WHAT'S IN THEIR ROOM. WE RECOMMEND YOU SET SOME "GROUND RULES" FOR ONLINE WORK TIMES.



Optimal office

HOW TO CREATE A FUNCTIONAL WORK SPACE FOR YOUR KIDS.

BY KERRIE LEE BROWN

When the pandemic forced schools to shut down earlier this year, my family like many others, panicked—and then we scrambled to make distance learning happen. My 15-year-old junior preferred to take a casual stance and work on his Chromebook laying on his bed (I admit not ideal, so he's since changed it up); while my 11-year-old middle schooler opted to partake in his Zoom calls at the kitchen table—closer to mom when I was working at home, and well, near the refrigerator... But now, thankfully, since months have passed and many school districts are back on campus—or at least various hybrid schedules have commenced across the state—we've found ourselves in a new remote routine.

To ensure your kiddos have an appropriate space for permanent or semi-permanent remote learning, we turned to Tennille Wood, Principal Designer at Beautiful Habitat Interior Design, to provide some insight. "Our clients had purchased this new home in Boulder, and we helped them to furnish and decorate the entire home, including the kids' bedrooms," she says. "The previous décor felt a lot younger and was very pink and frilly. Our client, a pre-teen girl, wanted a more sophisticated look to the room. My vision was a feminine room with the decoration sophisticated enough to take her through high school."

Home Hardware

There are several things that can be included in a kid's room to achieve a functional goal. Here are some ideas from our expert:

A WORKSPACE OR DESK. Make sure it's sized to the child properly so they can sit comfortably and ergonomically for longer periods of time. When anyone is uncomfortable, it's harder to focus.

A COMFORTABLE READING CHAIR. Just like kids might move to a reading circle for book time, it can help to break up time sitting at the desk.

LIGHTING IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT. This room has generous natural light and we were able to place the desk in front of a window. In the absence of natural light, use a desk lamp that will shine light onto their work surface.

TIP: Storage and easy access to supplies is a must to stay organized!



BEAUTIFUL HABITAT INTERIOR DESIGN & DECORATION



WHERE TO FIND

For younger kids, shopping a kid's furniture line will be important to get a scaled down size. This desk and the bean bag chair were purchased from Pottery Barn Kids in Park Meadows Shopping Center. The window treatment fabric is Duralee, which is available at various fine furniture stores across Denver.

Wood advises that in order to optimize a child's ability to learn at home, the goal is to strike a balance between an environment that is comfortable and stimulating, while also minimizing distractions so they can focus. "The client, in this case an 11-year-old girl, specifically requested purple and teal colors. She had also been to a restaurant that had some swirls painted on the wall and she told me how much she liked it. Our design plan started with the fabric for the window treatments to bring in the colors and a swirling feel that she liked. Then we worked with a local painter to bring those colors into swirls on the walls." **OLM**

TENNILLE WOOD is the Principal Designer at Beautiful Habitat Interior Design. Founded in 2007, Beautiful Habitat is an award-winning, Denver-based interior design firm dedicated to the belief that your home should be more than just a physical dwelling. It should provide a deep sense of comfort, support, and joy. Beautiful Habitat creates solutions to restore beauty and balance to your space on every level.



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