

# Kids' rooms



PART 2  
SEPTUPLER  
Room  
Makeovers

## 37 CAN-DO PROJECTS & EASY IDEAS

**BIG  
SPLASH  
for little  
CASH** p.70

.99 U.S./\$8.99 CAN.



**FAB THEMES:**  
bakery fun, happy campers, glam girl





# color cutie

Step into one lucky baby's  
bold and bright world, where  
*pastels and frills*  
just don't make the grade.

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OPPOSITE: An exuberantly patterned rug set the tone and defined the color scheme of this unique nursery. THIS PHOTO: Hand-painted walls in brilliant raspberry and peony pink encircle the crib as whimsical characters float above.





**ABOVE:** In her round crib, baby Ella can gaze at the mesmerizing sights surrounding her. **OPPOSITE:** The room's jazzy celebration of color and pattern has legs for years to come.

W

hat's a baby to do? Little Ella needed to hit the ground running, so to speak, if she were to keep up with two trendy big sisters. So a traditional sugar-and-spice nursery, with pretty ruffles and little bows, didn't make the short list. No, baby Ella had to make a statement.

"We wanted her nursery to be bright and fun like her sisters' rooms," recalls designer Kim Dwyer of Lucy & Co. in Charlotte, North Carolina. "A babyish nursery just wouldn't have been a good fit for this family. We assured them, 'You don't have to use pastel pinks and blues in a baby's room.'" Dwyer considered the other girls' rooms, boldly decked out in turquoise and purple, before deciding on the equally strong tones of hot pink, orange, and red for Ella's room.

Dwyer had an ulterior motive—to create a space that would be visually stimulating for the infant from the day she arrived home from the hospital. Another of Dwyer's missions was to design a nursery that in a couple of years would smoothly transition into a "big-kid" room. "Our goal with the color palette was to choose colors that would make a great nursery and a great toddler room. All Mom will have to do is trade out the



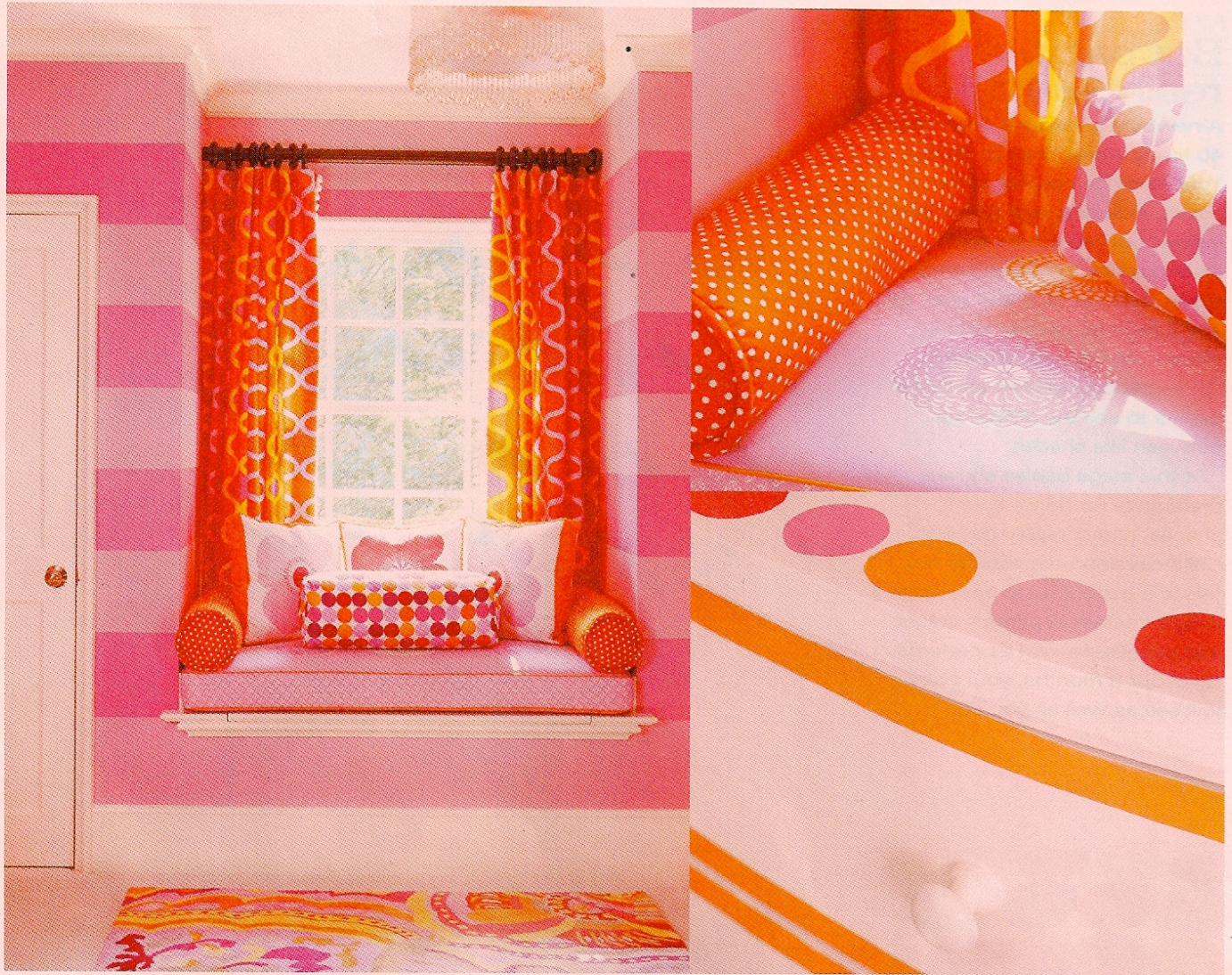
## But can they really see it?

A newborn's vision is poor—about 40 times worse than an adult's. Your little one can see some colors, including red, green, and yellow, but has a hard time distinguishing between similar tones, such as blue and gray. At age 3 months (give or take a month...all kids are different!), colors become clearer, and Baby begins to see the difference between like shades.

At this stage babies show a preference for bright colors, shapes, and complex designs. Child-development experts say this is a good time to encourage a child's interest in primary colors and pastels, as well as patterns. By about 8 months, your baby will see as well as you do.







**ABOVE LEFT and ABOVE, TOP RIGHT:** Tantalizing fabrics play off each other on the window seat. **ABOVE, BOTTOM RIGHT and OPPOSITE:** A vintage mirror and dresser painted white stand out against the broad wall stripes. Orange bands around the drawers add interest to the dresser. Designer Kim Dwyer hand-painted cheerful dots on the dresser top, repeating the circle pattern from the upholstered rocker and pillows.

crib for a bed, and buy some new bedding and pillows," she says. "Everything else can stay the same because bright pink and orange is one of the hottest color combinations for older girls."

Dwyer selected a patterned rug with several shades of pink and orange as the room's focal point. The rug served as inspiration for nearly every design decision that followed. "With such great shades of pink in that rug, we decided to do two variations of those shades on the walls in big horizontal stripes," she notes. "The stripes make a bold statement and also help the room appear larger." Referring again to the rug, she found fabrics that pop off both the bright walls and dark wooden crib.

"No fear" is Dwyer's biggest piece of advice for parents-to-be. "Don't be afraid to use bright colors in nurseries and young children's rooms. When I was painting my own son's room turquoise and apple green, some people thought I was absolutely insane," she laughs. "A lot of people just aren't used to seeing nurseries in vivid colors. But if you pick colors your child is still going to like in a few years, you won't be sorry." \*

SHOPPING GUIDE BEGINS ON PAGE 114.







