

Pointers For Parents-To-Be

Taking Baby Steps In Planning A Nursery

(NAPSA)—Anticipating a baby's arrival is a most exciting time for expectant parents, and their world as they know it will change dramatically. One of the many enjoyable aspects of planning for baby is decorating the nursery.

With so many choices available, the task of putting together a perfectly arranged and creatively decorated room, and doing it during a pregnancy, may seem overwhelming.

Fortunately, by planning ahead and beginning the project well in advance of baby's arrival, assembling your first nursery can be extremely rewarding—and a lot of fun.

Leading designer and author of "Nesting: Lifestyle Inspirations For Your Growing Family," Wendy Bellissimo helps growing families, including celebrities such as Kelly Ripa and Brooke Shields, design inspirational and beautiful nurseries. Yet it is Bellissimo's day-to-day pleasures of motherhood with her own family that have helped to perfect her signature style.

Bellissimo offers expectant parents the following nursery design tips:

Imagine The Room

A wonderful nursery starts with a vision. As you stand in the empty room, try to imagine an environment with a special and meaningful theme while allowing for a place for baby to dream and play. A crib should first and foremost meet all current safety standards, while fitting in with the overall vision of the room. Color also helps set the mood, determined by the bedding set chosen.

Make It Inviting

Bellissimo recommends making the nursery welcoming to baby



Designer Wendy Bellissimo offers tips on how creating a nursery can be rewarding and fun.

and inviting to grown-ups.

A comfortable rocker will help during feedings, and should be big enough for reading.

Also, if you can manage a twin bed into your nursery budget, it is a great place to curl up with your newborn, especially if your baby is not feeling well and you feel the need to be close.

A Place For Play

A child's play table and chairs are good for sitting and creating as children grow. Chairs with no arms allow grown-ups to sit, too. Table sets with a distressed finish are great options, so bumps and scratches look like they belong.

Now, through an exclusive partnership with Babies "R" Us, Bellissimo is sharing her inspired nursery designs with the world. To view Wendy Bellissimo nursery collections, or to find more information about creating a nursery, visit www.wendybellissimo.com. To purchase the exclusive collection for baby and mama, visit www.babiesrus.com.