

Nursery

Experts' Wisdom on Decorating a

Four of the hottest designers of nursery linens and furnishings are also real-life moms. Here, they explain their unique style, show off their new collections, and offer tips for creating a beautiful environment for your baby. By Kathy Henderson ■ Photography by Lenora Gim

WENDY BELLISSIMO A Relaxed, Comfortable Mix



It's no wonder designer Wendy Bellissimo emphasizes the importance of creating a calming environment for babies: As the mother of 5-year-old Gracie, 3-year-old Cecilia, and 2-year-old Willow—with daughter number four due as *Child* goes to press—Wendy has put

her design philosophy to the test in her Los Angeles home and also created whimsical nurseries for celebrity clients like Kelly Ripa and Brooke Shields. Now her bedding and accessories are available exclusively at Babies "R" Us stores nationwide.

"Each time I do a nursery, people tell me they'd like to have every piece I've put in the room—and now they can," says Wendy, whose collections include bedding in her signature mix of chenille, gingham, chambray, velvet, and sheer fabrics, plus rugs, window valances, slipcovers for a glider and child-

size chair, changing pads, folding clothes hampers, fabric-lined storage baskets, mobiles, pegboard shelves, lamps, clocks, and even framed wall art. Her popular "Sir Leapsalot" frog pattern is included, plus collections built around stars, vintage fire trucks, and English gardens. "I've made it easy for new parents to put together a nursery that feels personal," she says.



To Get the Look: Choose furniture that fits the size and scale of your room. Wendy's free "Nursery Design 101" booklet, available at Babies "R" Us, includes a grid and furniture templates so you can plan the location of a crib, changing table, dresser, glider, and more.

◆ Keep the decor simple. Wendy favors painting walls in soothing pastels, "almost a whisper of color," as she puts it, and placing area rugs on a wood floor so children have a choice of play surfaces.

◆ Think carefully about storage for clothing, toys, and changing supplies. Open baskets keep necessities close at hand, while a wall shelf lets you display keepsakes.

SIMPLE STORAGE

"Choose nursery pieces with beauty and function in mind," says Wendy Bellissimo, whose new collection for Babies "R" Us includes a peg shelf, clock, baskets, and liners (this page) and a foldable hamper (opposite page).

