

The Dream Nursery Design Guide

How To Design
Your Nursery In
Just 2 Weeks

WELCOME

Did you get lost in what I call the “never ending design dilemma” of browsing and liking but never deciding on anything? Yep, we’ve all been there!

How many Pinterest boards and pins you have? I bet it’s hundreds if not thousands. What happened, is that you got lost in the inspiration gathering phase. Believe it or not, this happens a lot with me too (which is super bad, really, as this is my job and I’m doing it every.single.day). BUT I have a really cool methodology to get myself out of this lost universe of just looking at pretty images and I will show you how to make decisions QUICKLY and EFFICIENTLY.

What you need is clarity and speed as you have a deadline. You need to start getting things done, decisions to be made and those checkboxes ticked, so you can rest assured with one less thing to worry about.

Whether you’re an expectant mother in a rush and overwhelmed or a busy mum of toddlers, use this guide to get you through this nightmare of designing, ordering and shopping with ease. Maybe you’ll even start to enjoy the process. :)

Day 1

Clarity & Direction

It's the too many options that make you overwhelmed. Let's sort your ideas. Follow your heart, listen to your feelings and let them guide you. You know what you want, you just got distracted. Take a moment and open Pinterest, then:

- ❑ Create a brand new board called "Nursery"
- ❑ Pin your favourite, most loved 10 images onto this board (yep, only 10!)
- ❑ Spend no more than 30 minutes doing this!

Tip: If you already had an idea-board for nurseries, than go through that and pick your favorite ones from your own filtered list.

Day 2: Functionality

Now you can see on one single board what you love and you will try to achieve. Even if your images seem to have nothing in common, it's quite likely that you will notice what caught your eye on each of the pictures that you've chosen and will pick those favourite elements as we deep dive into the design process.

Now it is time to look into your child's needs and set up a list of basic and non-basic functional requirements. I pre-filled the below list with a few items, but adjust it as you go and add your own thoughts as well.

	BASIC FUNCTIONALITIES	NON-BASIC FUNCTIONALITIES
BABY	<input type="checkbox"/> Eat (nursing chair & pillow)	<input type="checkbox"/> Play (baby gym)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleep (crib or cot bed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment (swing or things that make a sound)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nappy change (changing unit)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dressing up & cloth storage (changing mat, floor cushion, wardrobe)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TODDLER	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleep (cot bed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Play (role play, activity corner, teepee tent or other indoor facility to hide in, etc.)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rest (toddler chair or floor cushion)	<input type="checkbox"/> Read / Learn (bookshelf, night lamp for bedtime stories)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nappy change (changing mat)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dressing up & cloth storage (changing mat, floor cushion, wardrobe, chest of drawers)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Day 3: Budget & Shopping List

Now that you have a short list of your favourite interiors (created on Day 1), and a list of basic and non-basic requirements for the room (created on Day 2), it's time to decide on what you want to buy - item by item. Take a look at which types of furniture you want, how many things you would like to have in the room or how much furniture fits in the space you've got. You probably need a cot bed, but do you need a rocking chair? Or you'd rather use an armchair? Or is there no room at all for chairs? I suggest you start off with the list of basics and then add extras as you go if they fit in the space & budget.

I filled out the below lists with examples - overwrite / replace and fill out the spaces with the items and your budget as appropriate.

Tip: Having a floorplan of the room that you're designing comes very handy. A tape measure is also useful in case you want to double check how much space would a piece of furniture take up in real life (rather than just checking on paper). :)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Max. Budget</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cot bed	→ £500
<input type="checkbox"/> Changing Unit	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Wardrobe	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Rocking Chair	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Toy Storage	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Bookshelf	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Rugs	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Curtains & blinds	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Lightning	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessories	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/>	→ £

The things everyone forgets that they cost:

<input type="checkbox"/> Wall paint	→ £50
<input type="checkbox"/> Wallpaper	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall stickers	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Decorator (if needed)	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Electrician (if needed)	→ £
<input type="checkbox"/> Flooring or carpet (if needed) + fitting	→ £

Total Budget: £

DAY 4-8 Research

Now it is time to go back online or in stores again - but now it will be different! Why? Because you know exactly what you are looking for! What you'll do this time around, instead of just browsing, will be a targeted research, which narrows down the options drastically, hence it's easier to search and much, much easier to decide :) Cool, right?

Open your Pinterest idea-board and put your shopping list in front of you. The process is easy - look for each of the items on your list and find the ones that fit the style of your ideabook images and are within your budget.

Sum up what you're looking for by categories and add the details to ease your search. You have one day per category to finish your research. I added a few questions to help you, but you can brainstorm on this page or insert images too, if it helps to make decisions. Pick no more than 3 identical items (yeah, at this stage you're allowed to save the links to 3 different cot beds you like :) I'll let you know how to shortlist them later...)

Happy researching!

Floor

- Hard flooring (with or without rugs) or carpet
- Dark or light?
- What brand?
- What colour?
- How much?
- Does it fit in the budget?

Walls

- Wallpaper
- Paint
- Wall mural or wall stickers
- A combination of the above
- What colour(s)?
- What brand?
- How much?
- Budget ok?

Furniture

- Bundle or individual pieces?
- What colour?
- What brand?
- How much?
- Budget ok?

Fabrics

- Theme based or patterns?
- What colour?
- What brand?
- How much?
- Budget ok?

LET'S DESIGN

The tool you will be using is: CANVA.COM

Did you ever wonder how designers create those spaces where all things work well together?

Well, it's no secret that we use moodboards. Some do them by hand, some create them digitally. I prefer digital moodboards as they make life easier and there are so many online tools to create them with. Canva is one of them, it's free and probably the easiest to use. It takes 5 minutes to figure out how it works and you can have your moodboard ready in another 10 minutes or so.

Why to use?

Because it will give you an instant idea of how your space will look like when you enter it. This is super helpful, especially if you're not good at pairing things (rug with the floor, or blind with curtain, etc.); you can use this tool to check if your product choices go together well or not. Start experimenting and you'll see why this is a great tool to help you designing your nursery.

When I design for myself I don't do fancy moodboards (like for 1-on-1 clients). I just do a quick one to see how it looks like all together and to double check with hubby - what he thinks.

This is our living room :)
Made with Canva in about 10 minutes. Go ahead and try for yourself.



Day 9&10 - Select & organize

You are almost DONE! This is the most fun part where you will experience the power of visuals - time to make those decisions!

Pull out your research list of all the items you pre-selected - you will need to save an image of all these products on your computer. When you're done, go to [Canva.com](https://www.canva.com) and upload these images.

Start a big canvas (approx. 3000x2000), divide it horizontally in two thirds (mainly in your imagination). The top $\frac{2}{3}$ will be your wall background, the bottom $\frac{1}{3}$ will act as your floor background. Colour them accordingly, or add the appropriate images (note: you can add an image multiple times and place them next to each other to create your "floor" if the picture is not wide enough to be stretched out.

Now you have the basics in front of you, so it's time to start designing for real!

Place each item on your canvas and pair them up in different ways, take a snapshot or duplicate the page so you can make small changes and compare the 2 designs to see which one you like the most. Create as many combinations as you want and experiments until you find the perfect pairing of items. The colours, the style, the mood of your design has to be similar or identical to your Pinterest idea-board. You have to feel the same way when you look at them.

If you achieved this, it means that you've done a great job! And the hard part is DONE.

If you get stuck or have questions, ask them in the [Facebook group](#). I'll help you out :)

Day 11 - Final Shopping List and Budget Check

There is not much left to do now that you've done the hard bit and made your decisions :)

Take a look at your final moodboard and open the links to the products on it, then create your shopping list.

Make sure you compare this to your initial listing to ensure you stayed within your budget as well as did not forget anything you wanted to buy :)

These are the columns I use in the shopping lists I create for customers:

Item	Store	Link	Dimensions	Price	Quantity	Total

Day 12 - Shopping :)

Off you go!

Enjoy!

Bonus Tips for Mums-to-be

From the mum, rather than
the designer myself

- ❑ Go only for the basics if you're expecting your first child - you have plenty to spend money on anyways
 - ❑ Give yourself a chance to get to know your baby before you buy everything suggested by the retailers (e.g.: don't buy a singing bouncer as your baby might sleep well without one)
 - ❑ There are many things that you can buy later, typically toys - in the first 2 months a baby won't play with anything - the whole world is new to them, it's more than enough entertainment to stare at the walls :)
 - ❑ Get everything unpacked and assembled well before your due date. No surprises are the best when it comes to welcoming your newborn at home. :)
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