How to make a child's small room seem bigger

There are lots of secrets and tips to giving a smaller kid's room the illusion of being bigger than it really is.

Add a ceiling embellishment

A cluster of beautifully coloured paper flowers, a collection of pretty lanterns or a display of twinkling stars are all stunning decorative elements that draw the eye up toward the ceiling, making the room look more spacious

Hang something

Don't limit yourself to shelves when displaying accessories. Suspending them from the ceiling adds a touch of the unexpected and keeps the eyes moving around the room.

Use vertical stripes

Vertical stripes visually elongate a wall. You don't have to go the whole hog - even as an accent wall the stripes are effective.

Choose a light colour palette

Dark hues absorb light and can easily overwhelm a small room. Light colours, on the other hand, make a room feel bigger and brighter.

Paint any wall trim in a lighter colour than your walls

Light-coloured trim makes the wall behind it recede, appearing further away from the onlooker.

Don't allow pattern to overwhelm your space

Use bold, large-scale patterns sparingly, choosing a pattern with a lot of neutral space and reserving it for curtains, cushions and other accessories. Beware of overly busy motifs. Instead, opt for a clean, repetitive pattern that features no more than one or two colours. Be sure to break up patterned elements with large blocks of solid, neutral colours.

Choose simple furniture

Choose furniture with clean lines and a light finish. While dark, ornate furniture demands attention, understated pieces with slim lines "disappear" into the overall design, giving the illusion of open space.

Make the most of the space you have: In a small child's room, every square-inch counts. Look for little ways to create more space. For example, instead of buying a bulky bed frame, try creating the illusion of a frame by using a slim, wall-mounted headboard.