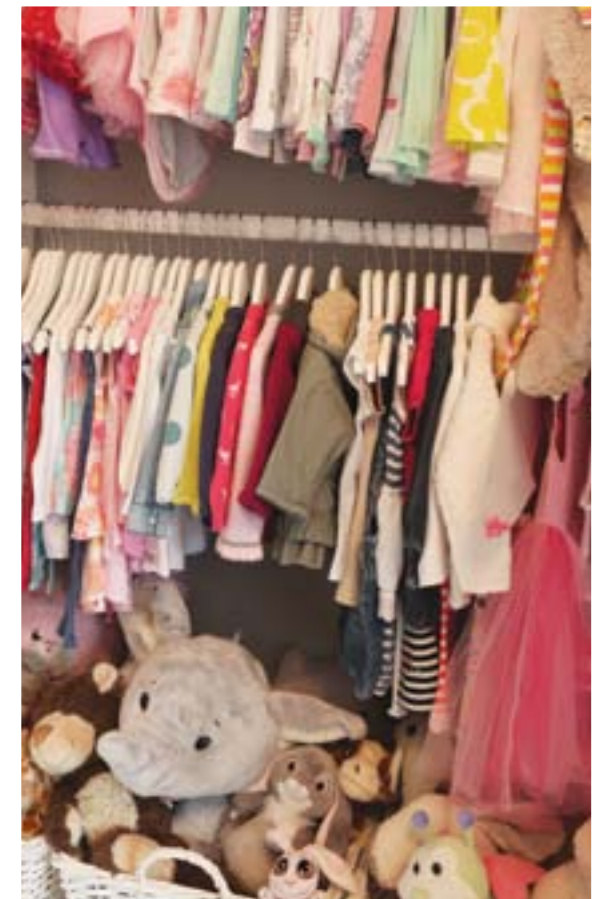


GET A gorgeous nursery

# CHILD'S PLAY



T-minus nine months until your little bundle of joy arrives . . . panic stations all round, right? Wrong! Bryanston interior decorator, organiser and mom Joy Liedtke shows us baby steps to pull together the perfect nursery.

**D**on't hang the artwork too high. Don't follow trends. Don't rely on overhead lighting. Don't push all the furniture against the wall. Ahhh ... so many rules and that's before you even start dealing with colour swatches. Who knew there are more than 50 shades of pink? (How's that even possible!) Well, interior decorator and organiser Joy Liedtke for one. She's been passionate about décor ever since she was six years old and her dad bought her a matching bedroom suite and Victoria Plum linen (a fairy character from back in the day). Her company, Joy by Design, will help you tackle everything from decorating to space planning, organising and even home staging. 'I'm passionate about creating signature spaces that inspire joy, whether it's in the home or the office.' We've seen her organisational skills first hand and, if we're being honest, we may have snooped around her stylish Bryanston home ... trust us, she's legit! Details: 082-520-0125 or visit [www.joybydesign.co.za](http://www.joybydesign.co.za)



Go to  
<http://joburgnorth.getitonline.co.za> to see a gallery of this lovely nursery.

## Crib notes from Joy

**It's a girl!** This bedroom belongs to 15-month-old Evangeline Joy Liedtke, AKA Eva the Diva. She loves her parents Joy and Shaun, handbags, sunglasses, her 'cellphone', the colour pink and her three furry friends, Rolo the Jack Russell, Ferrero the dachshund and Lady the cocker spaniel / Weimaraner cross.

• **Budget brilliance** – Establish a budget upfront so you know how much moola you're prepared to part with. Start by drawing up a to-do list. First step? Preparing the room which includes painting (washable and non-toxic), changing window treatments, lighting and baby-proofing. Don't rush out and buy on a whim. Whip out your tape measure so you don't swipe your card for a crib that's way too big for the room. You're gonna need a changing table, a rocker, blankets ... and we're only just getting started. Also, while we're all about living in the moment do consider longevity ... Eva's sleigh cot turns into a three-quarter bed. Nifty huh? You have nine months to prep so don't lose sleep just yet.

• **Neutral ground** – Joy opted for a cool palette of a white ceiling, blue-grey walls, damask wallpaper in a complimentary colour and grey and white striped fabric blinds as her base. Not only are these colours calming, but they also have longevity. She added pops of pink with accessories to accentuate the colour scheme.

• **Out like a light** – The last thing you wanna do when you check on your little princess in the middle of the night is wake her up. Opt for a dimmer

switch so you can adjust the lighting according to your needs. But just because it's practical doesn't mean it can't be gorgeous ... we love, love, love the crystal chandelier with a centre rose moulding. To avoid bright sunlight streaming into the nursery consider blackout fabric for blinds and curtains. Not only will it stop light seeping in but it will also keep the room warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

• **Making space** – Just because you have a small nursery doesn't mean you can't have big ideas. Plan the layout and don't try and cram unnecessary stuff into the room. Consider multifunctional furniture and think tall, not wide, so you make use of the height of the room to create the illusion of space.

• **Storage solutions** – Before you can say peek-a-boo you're gonna have onesies, nappies and teddies taking over. Allocate different areas on shelves, in labelled boxes and baskets ... it will make your life one helluva lot easier when you're rummaging for wet wipes at 2am. Another great tip? Arrange clothing according to age groups ... it will save you loads of precious time.

• **The finer details** – It's the soft, fluffy rug, the crystal mobile hanging above the cot (Joy's favourite piece in the room), and the soothing music that make the biggest difference. You need to consider safety ... does the furniture have sharp edges? Is your bedlinen cotton and non-allergic? Are the slats in the cot more than 10cm apart? (You don't want your little one getting her head stuck!).

