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A Child's Memento Box

By Dionna Sanchez

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One way your child can treasure his/her special memories from Spring Break or Summer is to create a Memento Box. Just have them use any kind of plain box such as a hat box, shoe box, photo box, etc – just make sure it has a lid. Then have them decorate it with things such as shells from a beach trip, photos with friends, stickers, markers, ticket stubs from a recent movie outing, napkins from a favorite hangout and such.

A good time to decorate it would be a day when nothing is going on.

Then throughout the Spring Break or Summer Vacation your child can insert favorite trinkets, postcards and other treasures. A great time to do this memento box would be when you go on an extended vacation. That way your child can make sure to bring back savored memories with them.

You can bet that this memento box will be treasured. You can even have your son or daughter write the year and date on the box to mark the time in their life forever.

Dionna is Editor/Publisher of Emphasis On Moms; a newsletter focused on helping you enjoy your role as a mom within the home. Visit today at <http://www.EmphasisOnMoms.com/>

Decorating A Child's Room

By Carmen Natschke

Decorating your child's room should be fun and exciting for all involved. The most important thing to remember when planning or decorating your child's room is to keep the decor age appropriate. You wouldn't want to decorate your 3 year old daughter's room in the same style as your 13 year old daughter's room. That doesn't mean you have to start decorating all over every few years. What it means is that you should strive to create a room that will grow with your little girl /little boy but is age appropriate. Some helpful tips follow.

Get a feel for what colors your child likes. If they are fairly young show them a box of crayons and let them pick out their favorite colors. Use those colors as inspiration for the child's room decor. The older

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child or children can easily tell you what colors they prefer.

Don't force your style or color likes and dislikes on your children. Despite their young age they are developing their personality's and their rooms are an extension of it. (Of course if they insist on all black walls and Marilyn Manson posters, it's reasonable to say No). The lesson here is to set limits but also to give your child room to create their special place in the home.

Use your imagination (ask your child for input) when painting your child's room. The wall treatments can range from applying a calming and soothing neutral wall color to creating fantastic murals that bring your child's dreams to life. I highly recommend Debbie Travis' Painting book for children's rooms if you want unique and interesting paint ideas. Decoupage is another form of decorative finishes that you can use to create a truly unique and magical child's room.

Furniture themes for your child's room can be: whimsical with butterflies and bees, elegant a la French country style, romantic like a princess inspired theme complete with a half crown above the bed, heroic like a firefighter inspired theme for a boy's room with a fire engine truck for a bunkbed, a charming rustic lodge style complete with log cabin headboard and so many others! You can buy many of these themed furniture pieces or you can create some of them yourself.

Carmen Natschke is a designer, speaker and co-founder of Room In A Kit LLC. She is passionate about decorating and has shared that passion with hundreds of women through her Decorating Divas workshops and seminars. To read more decorating articles by Carmen visit (

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