

Primary School



This cheerful child's room is as bold and bright and basic as a set of building blocks.

From the sponged walls to the polka-dot accents to the (literally) hand-printed border, the space has a fun, do-it-yourself feel. And in fact, aside from painting the base coat, almost every other component could be undertaken as a joint parent-child weekend project.

Kids love rooms that are made-to-measure—so add a customized growth chart for little heads to see how big they're getting. The hand-print border is a personalized touch kids will flip for (and a witty wink at kids' sticky fingers). The polka-dot accent wall is another playful note, created with little more than a tennis ball and a plate of white paint.

Blue bedding and accessories play on the primary colors theme. Even the window shade is a plain canvas roller painted in the same shade of blue used on the accent wall.

And this lively look is as practical as it is appealing. All the surfaces are finished with a washable latex glaze so scribbles and scuffs can be scrubbed away. Better still, sections can be adapted to keep up with kids' changing tastes; the border could be painted out in a year and the current favorite stenciled in (dinosaurs, soccer balls, spacemen...). In a room like this, kids' taste rules.

What You'll Need

Supplies:

- Bucket and mixing stick
- Tray
- Roller
- Brushes
- Natural sea sponges
- Thin cardboard
- Upholstery foam
- Low-tack painter's tape
- Measuring tape
- Carpenter's level
- Plastic plates
- Tennis balls
- Number stencil

Paint:

- Walls: Regal® Matte Finish in White (01), Sweet Butter (171), Blue Suede Shoes (798), Studio Finishes™ Latex Glaze
- Border: One quart each: Poppy (1315), Fruit Punch (140), Golden Orchards (329), Once Upon A Time (574), Blue Suede Shoes (798), Fire and Ice (1392) – all in Regal® Matte Finish

Step-by-Step Instructions

For walls:

Step 1: Prime walls, if necessary (always prime over new construction, old or damaged walls or a deep base color). Allow to dry.

Step 2: Roll on white base coat. On polka-dotted accent wall, roll on the Blue Suede Shoes (798) base coat.

Step 3: When thoroughly dry, measure from the floor to the bottom of the hand-print border (three and half feet or child's eye-level is a good starting point). Mark with a chalk dot.

Step 4: Measure to the top of the border (about one foot) and mark with another dot.

Step 5: Tape off top and bottom of border with low-tack painter's tape (the space between the tape will remain white, while above and below will have the yellow sponged glaze). Check with a carpenter's level to make sure your taped line is straight.

Step 6: Paint a thin blue line (use the Blue Suede Shoes, 798) along the top and bottom edges to frame your border. Allow to dry.

Step 7: In a bucket, mix the latex glaze and yellow paint, following proportions on the glaze can. Pour a small amount of the glaze mixture onto a plastic plate.

Step 8: Dip a damp, wrung-out sea sponge in the glaze, dabbing off any excess. Then press the sponge lightly on the wall, taking care not to smear. Continue sponging in a random pattern, changing sides of the sponge occasionally (for more tips on sponging, [click here](#)). Remove the tape as soon as you're done.



For accent wall and growth chart:

Step 1: Roll on the blue base coat. Allow to dry.

Step 2: Measure and tape off a rectangular strip (about 2 feet wide by 5 feet high) for the growth chart.

Step 3: Brush or roll in the white background for the chart (it may require two coats to cover blue base coat). Remove tape as soon as you've finished painting.

Step 4: When white background is completely dry, add the numbers to your growth chart. Measure and mark the feet from one to five, then use a standard number stencil to add in the growth marks in the color of your choice.

Step 5: Pour a small amount of white paint into a plastic plate. Dip a tennis ball in the paint, dabbing off any excess, then press the ball against the wall in a random pattern to create the polka dots.



For border:

Step 1: Make a stamp of your child's hands. Trace each hand, fingers splayed, onto a thin piece of cardboard.

Step 2: Cut out the shapes, and lay them on a piece of upholstery foam. Using the cardboard as a template cut out hand-shaped foam stamps. Note: make as many stamps as you have colors, so you have a clean stamp for each shade.

Step 3: Pour a small amount of the colors of your choice into separate plastic plates.

Step 4: Dip the foam stamps into the paint, dab off any excess onto a sheet of newspaper, and press against the wall. Vary the colors and placement as you go.