

WELCOMING A BABY

Welcoming a new baby into the world is such a special and amazing event. Months of preparation go into getting ready for the big day. Whether the preparations involve birthing classes, nursery decorating, or arranging work/day care schedules, baby is ready to be welcomed into the world once she/he arrives.

One way to make baby's arrival more special is to create a custom nursery. While many retail stores now offer complete nursery sets with a coordinating theme, it can be fun and relaxing to create an entire ensemble on your own! Although the task may seem overwhelming the quilting industry has created so many shortcuts to make this a fun and easy process. Take advantage of what's out there and create a one-of-a-kind nursery!

- Check your local quilt store for **preprinted panels**. These panels are easy to embellish with borders and binding, and allow you to finish a quilt quickly. What's more, preprinted panels might offer a great nursery theme.
- While shopping for preprinted panels look for coordinating "**large stripe**" prints. Many designs are wide enough to allow you to cover bumper pads with one, interesting piece of fabric. Check the repeat to get the most use out of your fabric.
- Fairfield has designed flame-retardant **bumper pad foam** that fits any standard size crib. Each package includes a free pattern for covering the bumper pads. Since the foam is precut and the pattern is included, this is a very quick and easy project!
- **Oh! So Soft** is a new fabric that has become wildly popular in the quilting industry. This plush polyester fabric makes the perfect baby blanket because it is ultra-soft and machine washable. Use Oh! So Soft to back a piece of flannel (no batting required!) then fold the Oh! So Soft toward the flannel fabric. Zigzag around the edge of the Oh! So Soft (no turning under is necessary if you zigzag or surge) and you have a great baby blanket.
- The **PS I Love You** series of books from Possibilities offers endless opportunities for creating the nursery of your dreams. Patterns are included for quick and easy crib sheets, bumper pads, quilts, diaper hangers, stuffed animals and more! Visit www.possibilitiesquilt.com for more information on these books.
- Lastly, plan a **photo memory quilt** for your baby. Take appropriately sized photos when baby comes home, show's his first smile, has her first yawn, etc. Photo transfer products are readily available at most quilt stores, are easy to use, and there are many books and patterns available that can assist you in incorporating your photo transfer blocks into a wall quilt.

Taking some time to plan the nursery for your baby can be a fun and exciting project. With all of the products now available this process can be quick and easy, and your baby's nursery will be filled with the best kind of love—handmade items made by you!

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