



A PERFECT PLAY ROOM

Like so many Style Network viewers, we fell in love with Amanda LeBlanc the first time we saw her reality show "The Amandas." We marveled as she led her team of fashionable, young organizers to create perfectly organized spaces. Now still operating a thriving organizing business (theamandas.com), Amanda puts her family's needs first and has even found time to update her daughters' playroom. She let us in and shares her expert advice about how she made it happen.

What motivated you to create this space?

As a mom, it is important for my children to have their own space. This playroom gives them the room they need to study, with a dedicated workspace that offers all of the needed supplies to keep them focused. The playroom also gives them a place to hang out and make memories. There is plenty of room for them to play dress-up, sing karaoke or watch a movie. The best part is, there is plenty of storage and everything has a home.

What was your inspiration for the design?

My girls inspired me. This is their room. I took the activities that they love into consideration. They like to play board games, which is why I added the square coffee table. Sleepovers are a must at their age. The day bed has a trundle, so there is plenty of room for their friends. The window seat created a perfect opportunity to install a stage for my girls to take center stage. Throughout the room, I used baskets and buckets to organize their toys. This makes it easy for them to access and even easier for them to clean up after they finish playing.

The two desks are designed to help them focus on their studies. Each desk is fully stocked with the materials they might need while studying. Everything from colored pencils to a calculator to extra paper and a stapler is tucked away in the drawers. It is important that they have everything they need at their finger tips. If they get up to get something, they will lose focus and more than likely, not return to their homework.

How did you include your daughters in the process?

The first thing I did was to ask the girls what they wanted. I wanted to take both of their personalities and bring them in to one space. I have learned that with kids, if you want them







Photos courtesy of Appear Photography

to maintain a system, you have to create a space they love. I had one child who wanted blue and the other wanted green. That's where the planning began.

How long did it take to transform the space?

The room from start to finish took about a month. I run a busy organizing company and my girls also keep me running! So I took my time. I didn't want to rush; I just wanted it to be right.

What activities do you use this space for?

The girls use this space to study and entertain their friends. However, my husband and I have just as much fun in this space. From karaoke night to game night, this has become a retreat for the family to enjoy together and create memories.

As a professional organizer, do you find it harder to design your own space?

Oh, yes! It's much harder to work on your own space, but I am never afraid to ask for help. I started with the blue paint color and the freedomRail system. From there, I asked friends their thoughts to make sure I wasn't crazy. I have to say, everyone but me was afraid of the color I chose, until they saw the room painted and then they all wanted the name of the color! (Paint color: Benjamin Moore Hemlock)

What are some organizing techniques you implemented?

The desks and the TV unit are from Organized Living's freedomRail. This organization system creates additional space that is flexible and can adjust as the girls' needs change. It is important to use space from the floor to the ceiling to maximize storage. I used open baskets to organize their toys, because it uses the depth of the storage space, allows for toys to be put away easily and keeps toys organized by categories. [GO](#)



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