

► BEFORE & AFTER

# ROOM FOR THREE

They may not like all the same things, but boys and girls really can live together in close harmony.



**“IF IT’S DESIGNED EFFICIENTLY,** it will work,” says interior designer Melinda Orlic-Katsiris of her challenge to overhaul a shared apartment bedroom. Housing three siblings—two girls and a boy—ranging in age from kindergarten to high school, the goal was to combine as many functions in as few pieces as possible. The solution: a transforming bunk bed for the girls, and a wall bed for the boy, both with desks so all can work at the same time. Collaborating with Resource Furniture ([resourcefurniture.com](http://resourcefurniture.com)), Melinda created a floor plan for the 13x13-foot room that gives the trio flexible, fluid use of the space. “They can change it any time,” Melinda reports. “The youngest can play while her older brother and sister study. Everyone’s happy!”

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PHOTOS BY DOOLEY IMAGES FOR RESOURCE FURNITURE



#### SPACE-SAVING BUNKS

The girls share a bunk tucked away behind a six-foot-long desk, *above, left*, where big sis can study, undisturbed. The boy’s bed folds up into a wall cabinet; its base holds a transforming desk, too.

#### PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

When the family green-lighted Melinda’s design, she made sure each child had input. All three selected their own linens and agreed to the teal-blue and green palette, *above*. The upper bunk’s padded edge makes a “secret cubby” for the youngest. And hidden storage at top, plus side shelves and cubby-style units helps everyone stay organized—and keeps the room neat.



BEFORE

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE!**

Painting the walls and ceiling white really opened up this room. Doorways were slimmed down to create more wall space. The bed unit's side cupboard plus open shelves and drawers make clean-up easy.

Hang folding furniture on the wall when not in use to keep it out of the way.



**CREATING A (CHAOS-FREE) MULTI-CHILD ROOM**

**1. TO EACH HIS OWN** It may sound obvious, but kids can't put things away if there's no place for them to go. Melinda devised storage spots for each sibling. "The oldest needed sturdy shelving for her books. We secured a back panel to the studs in the wall at the end of the bunk beds and installed floating shelves that can hold that kind of weight."

**2. DON'T SHARE ALIKE** A typical dual-kid room often sports two parallel beds. That's how this room originally was, notes Melinda. A bunk with a trundle underneath took up all the floor space. Now the sleepers are vertical and horizontal and fold away when not in use. "Go against format," says Melinda. See what she did to re-create this space at [rightsizedrooms.com](https://rightsizedrooms.com).

**3. IMPLEMENT A 12-MONTH RULE** You know the adage: If you haven't used it or worn it in a year, toss or donate it. "You can start this with kids early on. Talk about donations, the importance of giving things away and not holding onto them," Melinda advises. And less really can be more. "Maybe one big, beloved stuffed animal means you don't need 20 others."

**4. EQUAL ROOM FOR ALL** No two people are alike, and that's especially true in a multi-child room where age differences are on full display. "The youngest needs storage space for her toys and games, while the oldest has jewelry and accessories. Their brother has sporting gear. All make use of the storage unit with removable bins as they like," says Melinda. And they all control their individual space without disturbing the others.

**SHARED-ROOM SHOPPING**

Good habits start early, and it's easier to establish a clean-routine when the storage options are engaging to your little ones. Here, some fun picks that are sure to please communal room dwellers.



**Clockwise from top left: ART SHOW** Let kids show off their work with Land of Nod's Gallery Art Rails. They measure 36" long and come with hardware plus magnets to hold masterpieces in place. [landofnod.com](https://landofnod.com) **AS YOU LIKE IT** Children can design their own storage using Land of Nod's Pegboard with adjustable shelves. Hang them at any height for easy reach; purchase additional colored pegs separately at [landofnod.com](https://landofnod.com). **PLAYFUL PURSUITS** Help kids master the task of putting their toys away with the Storit Kids Activity Table. The mobile toy box slides in place underneath, while the top middle well holds craft and other supplies. [wayfair.com](https://wayfair.com) **EASY DOES IT** Clean and simple, with sturdy wood construction, Pottery Barn Kids' Cameron Small Space Storage Wall System grows with your child. Open shelving plus closed single-shelf cabinets and drawers offer organizing flexibility. [potterybarnkids.com](https://potterybarnkids.com)