



## Ask the expert

Expecting a second child? Elena De Simone, director of Bobo Kids and interior design expert, reveals how to 'zone' a bedroom for harmonious sibling sharing

Words: **Ellie Tennant**

**1** It's important that each child has their own space within a shared bedroom, so define the two areas visually using wall decoration. Use different wallpapers behind the two bed headboards or paint panels of contrasting colours to create separate, strong identities. Alternatively, keep the main elements of the bedroom fairly neutral and separate the space using contrasting bed linen, cushions and throws, so each child can have a part of the room that feels personal to them.

**2** With two children in one room, you need to double the storage space as well as keep the remaining floor space as clear as possible for practicality and play. Unless you have bunk beds, your floor area will already be limited, so fit storage wherever you can – under-bed built-in solutions or off-the-peg slide-out baskets or drawers are handy and won't encroach on the room, while storage hidden within a window seat or a moveable pouffe works well too.

**3** If you have enough space for two separate single beds, position them on opposite sides of the room and use an open shelving unit (that can be accessed from either side) as a room divider that will also let light through.

**4** Divide wardrobe space equally. Give each child a section so that clothes and shoes don't get mixed up. Items they need to access on their own should be easily visible at their height. Seasonal clothing not always needed should be placed on top shelves. Anything you hang should be hung by item: shirts/trousers/dresses. Don't mix them up!

**5** A bunk bed is a very efficient way to save space. All children love it but they will argue over who gets to sleep on the top bed! A bunk bed will definitely last until age 13 to 14 so avoids the need for frequent replacement. After that, they will need and likely want a bigger bed.

**6** Two individual beds are preferred if you have a large room because each child will have their own space. What's more, if you buy a bed which is not too childlike, it won't need to be replaced and can easily be transported into another room when they each move into their own bedroom. A single bed can be easily dressed for any age by using colourful bedding and cushions, so even when you have two identical beds for children of different ages you can make a difference with accessories. [KBB](#)



**From top to bottom:** High bed, from £790; Room Planner Liso day bed, from £890; Room Planner bunk bed, £3273.

### SourceBook

**BOBO KIDS** 020 7838 1020 or [www.bobokids.co.uk](http://www.bobokids.co.uk)