

SPACE OF THE MONTH

Happy Reading Nook

A sunny alcove designed for curling up with a good novel or just daydreaming? We're in!

BY LESLIE CORONA





Meet the Owner

JONI LAY

The interior designer and creator of *Lay Baby Lay*, a parenting and lifestyle blog, was thinking strategically when she renovated and decorated one end of the attic space in her suburban Atlanta home. At first she thought it could be a huge closet, but then she considered its proximity to her kids' bedrooms—and turned it into a reading nook for them. Her four kids often hole up in there, which Joni loves when she and her husband want quiet time. But when the little ones are off at school, she nestles into the colorful spot as well.



Get the Look

PICK A POPPY PAINT

Bright yellow was a bold choice, but it contrasts nicely with the pale blue in the adjacent bedroom. To keep the color from overwhelming the space, Joni paired it with a graphic wallpaper.

ADD PATTERN TO THE FIFTH WALL

Applying wallpaper to a low, sloped ceiling is easier than hanging it on high walls, Joni says, because you may not even need a ladder. Peel-and-stick paper simplifies the installation.

EMBRACE THE THEME

A library cart leans into the reading-nook concept and holds most of the books. Joni hung Ikea wooden spice racks to display beloved picture books—which serve as easily changeable wall art.

CHOOSE PIECES TO GROW INTO

Don't buy kiddie furniture for a kids' room. Adult-size chairs make for extra-cozy seating for tiny humans.

TO BUY: Surya Elaziz 2301 Area Rug, \$290; rugstudio.com. Erastus Armchair, \$290; wayfair.com. Fading Peonies No. 2 Unframed Print, from \$26; kellyventura.com. Paint: Glitzy Gold; sherwin-williams.com for info. Nathan Leather Pouf, \$200; allmodern.com. Martini Side Table, \$159; westelm.com. Blabla Kids Rainbow Pillow, \$76; maisonette.com.

The wallpaper (Smitten Kitten by Jen Peters, from \$40; chasingpaper.com) is fun—and nearly identical to one in Joni's old home. She used it here to help ease the transition for her kids when they moved.

