How to decorate and furnish a family home?

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Living in a family does not mean that you have to put your decorative preferences on hold. It does mean that you have to be aware of the new maintenance and basic practicality factors as you will need a decoration scheme that is children friendly.

This sort of design will allow everybody to feel relaxed and comfortable, where children are not intimated and constrained by "don't touch" surfaces and furnishings and where adults are not constantly worried about scratches, fingers marks.   In order to attain such comfort in your home, one certain strategy is to choose materials that look good and will look even better as they wear such as: Wood, stone, terracotta tile, linoleum and other natural surfaces and finishes; always think in terms of easy maintenance, washable loose covers for sofas and armchairs, for example, or sizable tile or paint finishes for bathrooms and kitchens.

Paint is a much more practical finish than wallpaper as it is easy and cheaper to renew.

Sound, comfort and resilience are other factors you should bear in mind when you are deciding on finishes and furnishings for a family home. Minimal furnishing approaches with hard materials will result in an unacceptably high noise levels. Softer floor surfaces, such as carpeting, natural-fibre matting or rugs can be a good idea at upper levels of a house or on stairs, and particularly in younger children's playgrounds and bedrooms where they provide the necessary comfort for floor-based play.   While there is every good reason why children should be taught to respect their surroundings and learn more appropriate outlets for self-expression than scribbling on the walls and furniture, it is important not to expect the impossible. Accept the fact that you should keep out of children's reach delicate and breakable items as well as delicate fabrics, smart sofas or fine rugs, which might be snagged or ruined by stains.