

In the Winter 2008 issue of *OHbaby! Magazine*, we gave some great tips on making the transition from a cot to a big bed easier. Now, the OHbaby! team has shopped 'til we dropped – here are our best picks of what's available in toddler bedding

sleep tight!

Mattresses

While any bedding store can sell you an innersprung mattress, if you'd prefer to go green, we particularly like Innature's all-natural mattresses. Innature (www.innature.co.nz) handmakes mattresses using organic cotton, hemp, coco fibre, natural latex, and wool, and their Little Kai range of mattresses are custom made for bassinets and cradles right through to adult-sized beds. The materials they use are 100% natural, free from toxic chemicals, breathable, supportive, durable, and environmentally friendly. Innature's recommendation for a child's first big-bed mattress is the 5 inch coco latex mattress (single \$645, king single \$775).

Mattress protectors

It's a good idea to use a mattress protector on your child's big-kid bed for a couple of reasons. First, nighttime accidents are still common during toilet training, and leaky nappies are inevitable. Also, you'll want to protect the mattress when your child is ill with tummy bugs or head colds. And it's much easier to strip off a mattress protector and pop it into the wash than it is to clean a mattress – especially in the middle of the night.

A traditional waterproof mattress protector is a great option for under your child's sheets, between the mattress and the bottom sheet. We particularly like the Baby First Quilted Single Mattress Protector (920mm x 1880mm, RRP\$26), with a thick, soft fleece outer for your little one's comfort and a super-absorbent, 100% waterproof inner for complete mattress protection. It's machine-washable, but remember it needs to be drip-dried as the dryer can degrade the waterproofing. Find it at Baby City and other independent retailers around the country.

Another innovative option for a mattress protector is the Brolly Sheet (www.brollysheets.co.nz). The Brolly Sheet is placed on top of the fitted sheet and tucked in underneath. The outer layer is cotton, so it looks and feels like a normal sheet, but the PVC inner keeps the fitted sheet and mattress clean and dry. It's really quick to change – just strip it off and toss it into the wash. In several fun colours to match your child's room décor, the Brolly Sheet comes single, king single and queen, priced from \$44.95. The best part about the Brolly Sheet is that you don't have to strip the whole bed if your little one wets it.

Sheets

How many and what kind of sheets your child's big-kid bed requires is a matter of opinion. Our recommendation is two sets of 100% cotton sheets for spring and summer, and two sets of cotton flannelette or cotton knit sheets for autumn/winter. Wallace Cotton (www.wallacecotton.co.nz) has some absolutely divine organic cotton sheets. We also love Cocobelle (www.cocobelle.co.nz) for beautiful children's sheets. And My Room (www.myroom.co.nz) has 100% cotton sheet sets for boys' and girls' beds, as well as wonderful 100% cotton knit sheets that feel like your child's favourite T-shirt against their skin.

Duvets

A cool duvet can "make" a child's room and tie everything together. Look for print colours, wall décor, and curtains that complement the duvet, and use it as a focal point in your child's room.

Make sure the duvet you choose is washable, and that it doesn't have any small buttons or decorations that your curious toddler can detach and possibly choke on.

Giddy Giraffe's bedding (www.giddygiraffe.co.nz) is 100% cotton and handmade in New Zealand to match their furniture, and we particularly love the Boys' Toys duvet cover (single \$90, king single \$110).

The Denim duvet cover from Apples and Pears is priced from \$85, with pillowcases from \$22. There's a fantastic range of other duvets and accessories on their website (www.applesandpears.co.nz) – you can get matching bean bags, lamp shades, and even pyjamas. Best of all, their stuff is 100% cotton and seriously cute.

If you want to choose something a little more sophisticated, we love TomTomJak's Polka Dot duvet cover and pillows (single \$152, king single \$195). There are also matching sheet sets, lamps, cushions, and other accessories, and you can buy the fabric by the metre too – check out www.tomtomjak.co.nz.

Cocobelle carries a lovely selection of designer duvets and bedding accessories, and we've in love with their Room Seven range.

Duvet liners

One of the most important considerations with duvet liners is how warm it's going to be, and whether you can get away with using the same one all year round, or if you'll need two duvet