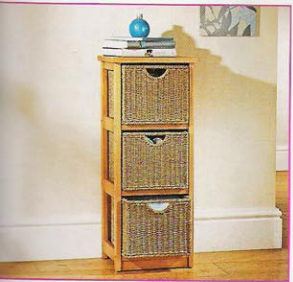




Pink striped handmade rug, £14.99, available from Homebase



20 star LED chain lights, £9.99, available from Argos



3 drawer shelving unit, £39.99, available from Argos



Rainbow spot blind, £19.99, available from Argos - or make your own from a plain blind

and play games on the floor, but if you have floorboards think about soft squishy rugs to chill out on. Homebase have great rugs and Allied carpets have reasonably priced carpet, too. Try and avoid creams or beige carpets - as they're boring and are for adults only - look for soft powder blues or lilacs for a neutral girl/boy compromise. Offer to do chores around the house, car washing or stacking/unstacking the dishwasher (always a good way to plea bargain in our house) to offset the cost of new things in the den.

Now, what to sit on? Chairs can be a bit boring and could look a bit kitchen-ish and new sofas can be expensive - but if you know anyone that is trying to buy a new sofa you could plead for their old one, put up a 'wanted' notice at school perhaps, there's lots of people buying new sofas (trust me I know these things!)

A few soft blankets or throws will make it more 'yours' and you can add masses of inexpensive cushions too, I like the Union Jack ones that are around at the moment, or the one's with the American flag on. Olde Glory do some really nice ones...



Union Jack flag cushion, £24, available from [www.oldeglory.co.uk](http://www.oldeglory.co.uk), or call 08456 528 567

You can create loads of different moods in your den by getting an adult to fit a dimmer switch on the light - this will enable you to really turn the lights down low when you need a more chilled out space, but will turn up bright enough for doings things like homework or reading. You could add other lights if you want to, I love the rope lights you can buy from [www.directlight.co.uk](http://www.directlight.co.uk) for £11.44 - these are even tough enough to be coiled around furniture or even layed on the floor (don't trip!)

Storage is essential, so you can keep your things separate from your brothers'. I love natural wicker baskets best - IKEA have great ones. The key is to have plenty of these that will stack on top of each other if possible to take up less room. Shelves are great for box games and books, too - get an adult to put these up for you and make them fix these at a height that is great for you NOT them!

Inexpensive roller blinds can be painted easily with thinned emulsions or acrylics - coloured 'smartie' dots are simple but effective - and you're ready to go!

## X Linda

# Remember to have fun!

If you have any design questions for Linda or Jess then email them to [roomdesign@4girlz.co.uk](mailto:roomdesign@4girlz.co.uk)