

— SURVIVING A RENOVATION WITH CHILDREN —

These hints will help you to make the renovation experience as stress free as possible.

BEFORE

Make sure that your children are involved in the planning. It's a wonderful learning experience and can offer them yet one more "buy-in" into the family dynamic. If the renovation includes a child's room, then it is all the more important that they be part of your decision-making process. Sometimes it's a question of laying out two or three colours that you like and letting them choose the final colour. The same may be true of wallpaper.

We have had parents who have let the children help in planning a kitchen. Letting them draw their own plans, can be a learning experience and they may just come up with an idea or two!

DURING

We will want you to introduce your children to the renovation team that will be working at your home. After all, you are inviting a group of people to be in your home for a significant period of time – they shouldn't be strangers.

We will take every precaution to protect your children from any harmful construction debris. You may wish to put a portable air purifier in your child's room to help remove dust and particles that will inevitably find their way to the bedroom.

Your children should watch the project as it unfolds. However, for safety reasons, they should only be allowed near the construction area while being closely supervised by their parents. Tools are not toys, and can cause serious injury to children who are unsupervised.

Construction or renovation time is a great time to plan outings with the children. They will have a certain amount of interest in what is going on, but boredom will set in. Trips to the park, theatre, library and other places will help them to cope with the disruption in their home.

If you take photographs of the various stages of renovation, let your children put together a scrap book. It would be great if you sat with them and helped them to write descriptions and memories. They can draw pictures, describe events or talk about the renovation team. The book will be a real keepsake in your family.

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