

When designer Judi Mensing redecorated this bedroom, she added new bookcases and storage features to make mom Shari Faber happy and planned a fishy decor that keeps son Elijah smiling. The loft bed, accented with fish magnets, is young Elijah's favorite part of his new room.





SCALLOP SHELL



NAUTILUS SHELL



STARFISH



CORAL

Rather than buy a new dresser, Mensing updated a plain white one that used to belong to Elijah's dad. "Elijah was a little nervous about getting his dresser painted because he'd had it his whole life," mom Shari says. "But once he saw it, he loved it." Above the dresser, lithographs of sea life blend art and science, and a painted stripe in a contrasting color adds a simple dash of style.



### Good Idea

Give old furniture a modern makeover. Designer Judi Mensing repainted a white dresser with two shades of blue, then added fun starfish knobs.

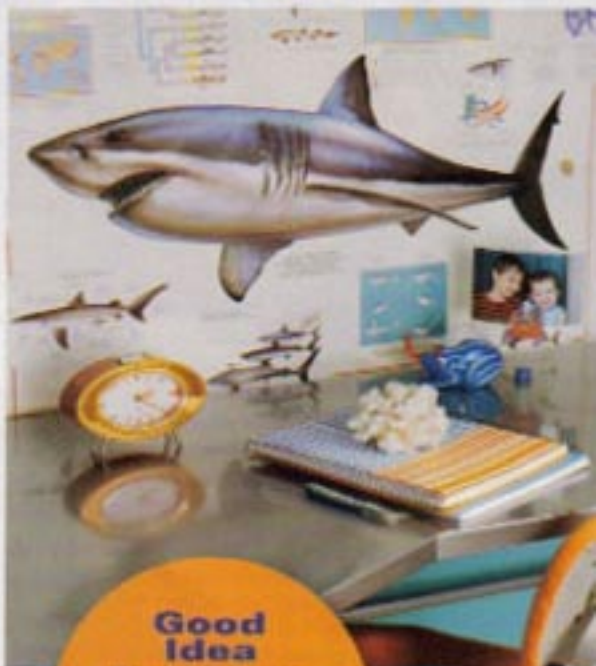


**LEFT:** Elijah plays with scuba equipment while looking into his new porthole mirror. A curtain featuring sea turtles replaces a standard closet door and incorporates one of Elijah's favorite ocean creatures into the room's design. **ABOVE:** A mix of colorful fish-theme pillows and bedding bring a youthful look to the left bed and continue the room's ocean theme.

## A FLORIDA VACATION INSPIRED 6-YEAR-OLD ELIJAH'S INTEREST IN THE OCEAN.

Inquisitive by nature, he became fascinated with the water and eagerly began learning about marine life when he and his parents, Shari and Rick Faber, returned to their Wisconsin home. So when his parents decided Elijah's bland bedroom needed a fresh look that would better suit his personality, they knew just the right theme for his new space. They asked designer Jodi Mensing to help them transform the bedroom with ocean-inspired accents and much-needed storage space—all without spending a ton of money.

Mensing first chose an area rug that features colorful fish, then created a mural using wallpaper appliques of sharks, swordfish, and tropical



### Good Idea

Make education fun. A shark poster adds interest to the desk area and contains fun facts about sharks that Elijah can enjoy learning.



## MURAL MAGIC

Think you need to hire a professional to paint a mural for your child's room? Think again. Designer Jodi Mensing and mom Shari Faber created a mural for this ocean-inspired room with easy-to-use wallpaper appliques featuring fish and other sea creatures. They first painted a graduated background using three shades of blue. Working in 3- or 4-foot-wide sections, they applied three bands of color to the wall from the bottom up, blending the paint at the edges as they worked. "Paint quickly, so it doesn't dry too soon," Shari advises. Next, they taped the appliques to the wall to determine placement; once they were happy with the design, they attached them with wallpaper paste.

