

lake norman

WOMEN

CENTERS

featuring

DR. NICOLE NAYLOR
& DR. AMBER BROOKS
OF WEST LAKE
DENTISTRY

a son
belongs
forever:

ONE FAMILY'S
INFERTILITY
STRUGGLES

all in the

family

INCLUDING 6 **LKN**
FAMILIES THAT WORK
TOGETHER!

10
clues
YOU'RE ON
TRACK TO
A STRONG
MARRIAGE



living in the WHITE house

By: Starr Miller

No, not that one. The one you thought you might like to try again when you heard that Benjamin Moore was forecasting the resurgence of Simply White and Sherwin Williams picked Alabaster as its color of the year. White like a breath of fresh air. Not beige, not gray, but simple and uncomplicated white.

Screech.....

Wake up. Remember, you have kids—and a dog! That’s not happening. Or is it?

As our American lifestyles change and most homes no longer have the formal living room where only Mom and Dad go, you will find the interior design industry is on board with you. You can live in white rooms. You can even have a white sofa.

So, if you want to whoop it up and use white (or any other color for that matter), you simply need to make the investment to choose your finishes and furnishings wisely. It may pay off to spend a bit more now and not have to throw all of your furnishings away when the kids go away to college. Disposable income should not be spent on disposable furniture.

Because your family deserves beauty, too, here are my top five suggestions for beautiful living with pets and kids:

- 1. Use outdoor fabrics, indoors!** Today, outdoor or “performance” fabrics can have texture, pattern, and not look like an awning. They are beautiful. Albeit a bit more expensive, they will hold up over time, kids, and dogs.
- 2. Use paint made for your circumstances.** Do not just tell your painter the color to use. Talk to them about the finish and quality of the paint. You can even find easy-clean flat paint. This was unheard of just a few years ago.
- 3. Consider wallpaper.** If you go into a commercial space like a fine hotel, you bet they have planned for hard wear and tear. They use vinyl-based wall coverings, which protect the walls and are easy to clean. They also come in some of the most beautiful, sophisticated designs you could imagine.
- 4. Real wood lasts longer and wears better than fake.** True wood furniture gets a patina with wear. You can refinish it; you can live with it for many, many years. But, furniture that is made overseas in bulk and built of particle board will fall apart quickly. Make your value judgments with this in mind. With a high-low plan, you can splurge on the items you will love for a lifetime, and scrim on items that you may love today but do not want forever.
- 5. Use Crayola Color Wonder products for your kids’ projects.** They only work on the Color Wonder paper and not on your carpet, walls, or furniture.



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