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# Tips for designing the perfect family room

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A major trend in home interior design for the past few years has been the conscious effort to use design as a means of bringing family together.

This is according to Claire Gibson from La-Z-Boy, who says with our busy lifestyles and the ever-present temptation of technology always on hand, modern families are spending less and less quality time together.

However, she says with the help of clever design, you can encourage family members to spend more time together, and a family room offers the perfect place for this to happen.

Claire shares some tips...

## 1. Know the family

The first step to a successful family room design is figuring out everyone's needs, and then working from there to ensure that as many of these are met.

A family room can be a place where homework gets done, an entertainment hub, or somewhere to relax, read or converse with one another.

By including as many requirements of every member of the family into this space, you'll ensure that everybody feels comfortable and able to use this space.

## 2. Kitchen connection

Everybody knows that the kitchen is the heart of the home, so connecting the family room to the kitchen is a natural progression for creating a unified space that the whole family can enjoy together.

By joining the family room and the kitchen, you can create a truly multi-functional room. For example, you can keep an eye out on the kids while they're doing homework or watching TV, as you prepare meals.



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### 3. Choosing colour

When choosing a colour scheme, you will want to select something that creates a relaxing ambience, which is warm and inviting.

If you want something bold and dramatic, choose contrasting colours in bold hues for a bright and modern feel. If you would prefer a softer ambience, then select neutral shades for a more low-key aesthetic.

### 4. Let the light in

There is nothing worse than a dark, depressing and uninviting family room. So the more natural light you can let in, the better. A family room that is bright and full of sunlight is warm and appealing.



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### 5. Stick to informal and versatile

One of the most important aspects of a successful family room design is the placement of seating in a way that encourages eye contact and interaction.

Those using this room need to be the focal point of the placement of seating, not things like the TV.

It's best to offer a variety of seating choices in a family room so everybody will be comfortable. A couple of occasional chairs or single-seaters, an ottoman or two, and a 2- or 3-seater couch.

Motion furniture is an especially great option for this room, as it can cater for a number of different functions, from watching TV to reading, gaming, relaxing, or just sitting together and enjoying each other's company.

### 6. Be practical

As its name implies, a family room is going to be used by the entire family, young and old. As such, it's important that you take this into consideration when choosing items to house in this space.

Leather is probably the best bet when it comes to durability and withstanding lots of use by all members of the family, however, it's also quite an expensive option. If you are opting for fabric upholstery, be sure to select fabric that has been treated.



Most family rooms have several things going on at once, so it's a good idea to divide the room into smaller spaces.

### 7. Create different spaces

Most family rooms have several things going on at once, so it's a good idea to divide the room into smaller spaces.

For example, create seating around the television or fireplace, and keep the play area in a section of its own.

You don't need to put up walls to divide the space as you can create invisible walls by producing lines with furniture, area rugs, paint and so on.