one family, *one room*

Cozy needn't be cramped. Here's how one *TP* staffer's family makes their small space work

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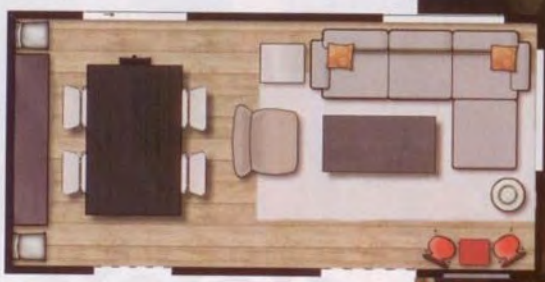

When Kim and Mike Ouellette first looked at their Burlington, Ont., home, they were a little worried about the size of one of the rooms. That would have been the living room/dining room/playroom/office. As you can see from the floor plan above, this multi-task space is cozy — 224 square feet of cozy, to be exact. "We wanted to be able to live in here on a daily basis and still have a good flow," says Kim, who is the contributing art director at *Today's Parent*. "We wanted to have people over ➤

DEFINE YOUR SPACE
An area carpet "adds" a room while preserving the wide open and airy feeling of this space.
Stockholm easy chair, $349, Ikea; Rug, $200, End of the Roll; Gus Modern Carter sectional, $3,500, modernkaribou.ca., Benjamin Moore Aura paint, wall colour: Collingwood, trim: Cloud white.

SPACE-SAVING SOLUTION #1

It seems intuitive to fill a small room with small furniture, but larger pieces can offer generous seating while minimizing furniture clutter.

A LITTLE REFLECTION
A small mirror strategically placed will bounce light around the room without producing the funhouse effect that can happen when mirrors take up most of a wall.
Magazine round mirror, $79, Urban Barn.

HIDE THE TUBE
Reduce your TV's visual real estate by surrounding it with pictures (black and white acts like camouflage). Mounted on the wall, photos are visible but untouchable by little hands.
Ribba frames, $7–$15, Ikea.

USE YOUR VERTICAL SPACE
Bid book bulk bye-bye. This rack is sleek and practical — kiddy-lit reading options are in full view and easy to reach.
Illuzine magazine rack, $37, Umbra.

SPACE-SAVING SOLUTION #2
What's the small-space version of the playroom? The play *zone*! Here, a bright square table tucked under the TV and just off the living room "grid" lets Hannah feel she has her own special spot in the room.
Kritter children's table, $40, Ikea; Baby Acapulco Chairs, $229 each, ellaandelliot.com.

SPACE-SAVING SOLUTION #5

With floating cabinets, you can store just as much as in a generous buffet, plus you have wiggle room as to where each unit goes. Here, Kim and Mike can keep breakables up high, and leave toys on Hannah's level. And the cabinet doors keep Hannah's treasured stuffies away from Hudson the dog.

Besta storage combination, $710, Ikea; Laughing Buddha, $37, Urban Barn; Gigi dining room chairs, $229, Urban Barn.

and larger pieces of furniture — a sprawling sectional and a six-seat dining table, allowing plenty of elbow room for lounging or eating, and leaving ample floor space for Hannah to zoom around on her tricycle. "We feel lucky to be able to come home to a space we can all enjoy together," says Kim. "The room is very comfortable, and not at all crowded. We've settled in nicely."

SPACE-SAVING SOLUTION #6

Clear tempered glass is safe and barely looks like furniture. A side table such as this one creates another storage nook, striking that rare balance of transparency and neatness.

Thilde side table, $369, Urban Barn.