

Truck leads to adventure

By CORINNE ABATT

Ryan Golden, 2, often kisses his mother, Kathy, goodbye, tells her he's leaving for Chicago or Santa Fe, goes up to his bedroom, picks up his overnight case, climbs into the cab of his truck and takes off. Well, at least in Ryan's world, he is rolling west in a big red and blue truck, tooting at friends, watching the curves, keeping both hands on the wheel.

His parents knew more than a year ago that their first born was fascinated by trucks — he can name makes, types and parts.

Kathy Golden wanted to do something special for Ryan, particularly since a younger brother, Adam, nine months, was sure to steal a smidge of the limelight.

So, for Ryan's bedroom in the new home, she designed a pick-up truck bed, complete with storage units for toys, and drawers for personal belongings — spaces for storing just about everything a youngster could need or want.

Her design was carefully done, her specifications exact down to the location of a dip in the toy box wall so the lid wouldn't come hanging down on little hands.

THE UNIT, which takes up the major portion of the room, was designed in sections so that it can be separated into furniture units as Ryan gets older. He will still have storage boxes, a complete single bed (with ladder at the back in case he ever wants to turn the truck into a fire engine) and matching chests of drawers.

When the drawings were completed, Mrs. Golden got bids on building the project. She made it as child proof as possible and included many things to appeal to a growing boy. Odometer and other parts of the instrument panel as well as head lights are painted on. Ryan's name on the cab door establishes ownership clear. The steering wheel is smooth and easy to spin around.

A radio may be added later when his parents feel it's appropriate.

Just by accident, when the Golden's were in Chicago as the truck bed plans were well under way, Mrs. Golden found matching sheets, comforter, pillow cases and wall paper border with large, bright red blue, yellow and green trucks in an all-over pattern. The wallpaper border was put around the top of all four walls of the room.

Young Adam, a bright, bouncy baby, has yet to display his interests clearly. But, once his mother finds a direction, she's planning on designing something special for him, too — not a truck bed, mind you, only one to a family, but something that will trigger Adam's imagination as much as the truck does Ryan's.

In the meantime, Mrs. Golden has found that designing unusual furniture triggers creativity. She may keep that for a future career when Ryan means it when he says good bye and takes off in a car for Chicago.



Ryan Golden doesn't argue about going to bed. To him, it's a new adventure every night. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

Hardwood comes back into favor

Hardwood is one of the latest style trends that gave a strong showing at this year's Furniture Market.

There are many factors pointing in the direction of genuine hardwood — a nationwide focus on quality, a leaning toward the natural and away from synthetics and a style trend toward clean design that shows up the best when combined with the beauty and warmth of genuine woods.

Oak, for example, is available in a wide choice of styles and price ranges. Its wide grain and hefty look make it ideal for country decorating, one of the popular home decor styles.

New styles in Country French and Country English are showing up in oak for both country folk and city dwellers. This reflects a trend of more casual living everywhere.

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