

# Sweetest thing

Old-fashioned fabrics are back in style with these designs for bubs

>> Words **Laeta Antonysen**  
>> Photography **Mark Taylor**

**T**aylor Hunt has always loved being surrounded by pretty things. So when she was forced, through lack of choice, to use an unattractive tartan blanket for a picnic in the park with her baby daughter, Amelie, she decided to put her fashion design background to work.

Less than a year later, she launched Amelie's Room, a web-based business featuring her beautiful handmade picnic blankets, cot blankets, wraps and change mats.

All the products have a pretty, nostalgic feel to them, inspired by her upbringing in the French-Canadian city of Montreal.

"I have always loved that old-fashioned look," Taylor says. "I grew up surrounded by beautiful French things, like my grandparents' crocheted doilies and toile cushions, so I hunted everywhere for beautiful fabrics that had that same feel."

The resulting designs feature a gorgeous combination of pretty florals, funky plaids and cool paisleys, as well as crocheted and toile fabrics.

Even the names of the blankets are adorable – inspired by some of Taylor and Amelie's favourite fairytales and nursery rhymes – including the Parisian-like Bo Peep's Sheep, the "not so girly-girly" Mrs Hubbard's Cupboard and the Edwardian Princess Mary Mary – a cross between "super-cool grandpa plaid" and granny's floral cushions.

The cot and picnic blankets all bear Taylor's signature – three circles of complementary, textured fabrics.

The picnic blankets also come in hessian tote bags, which are specially made by people with disabilities, in New South Wales.

Taylor says while many bedding designs have polyester wadding, her change mats and blankets are made using 100 per cent cotton – inside and out. The picnic blankets follow the same principles, including, where possible, a 100 per cent cotton, waterproof backing – so no more wet grass seeping through to spoil your picnic plans.

"All of the products are made here in Australia and are made using natural fibres that are gentle on baby's skin, easy to care for and fire resistant," Taylor says.

The range of Amelie's Room designs also includes hand-knitted toys, enchanting crocheted hats, clothes, wall-hangings and knitted bags.

Amelie's Room products are stocked at 18 boutique children's stores around Australia, including Taylor's first Melbourne-based stockist – Little Me, Little You, which opened in Templestowe last year.

Taylor has also expanded her online sales, with several boutique brands – Le Toy Van, Cocoon Couture, Lark and Kathe Kruse among them – now available through her website.

Plans are afoot to extend the wholesale side of her business and Taylor says she is also working on a new range of products, including larger picnic blankets for the whole family.

Finding the time, of course, is a different matter for Taylor, who also has a six-month-old boy, Asha. "I thought I would have some quiet time after he was born, but I did a trade show when he was six weeks old and things have been really busy since," she says with a laugh.

## Oh so pretty

Gorgeous handmade blankets in a range of fabrics (above)

## Hang in there

Crocheted bangles make cute nursery decorations (below right)

## Old-world wonder

Taylor says she has a love of lace, toile and floral fabrics (right)

## Dream weaver

Brighten baby's bed with a cot blanket (below right, inset)

## postscript



Label  
Amelie's Room

What  
Handmade picnic blankets, cot blankets, wraps, baby change mats and knitwear

Sold at  
Little Me, Little You, in Templestowe or online at [www.ameliesroom.com.au](http://www.ameliesroom.com.au)

Expect to pay  
\$39.95 for a crocheted hat, \$69 for a change mat, \$129 for a cot blanket and \$139 for a picnic blanket.

### Favorite piece

"The Edwardian Princess Mary Mary blanket because it was my first design and inspired me to do the range of blankets."

More information  
See website above

with  
**Taylor Hunt**  
(interviewed with Amelie)

