

FIVE OF THE BEST: HOMES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

A climbing wall, brightly hued playroom and baby ballet are keeping children amused in cheery new schemes, says Cheryl Markosky



Contemporary families require far more than some rusty-looking play equipment hastily added to an unloved corner of a development. Luckily, many builders recognise the importance of making little Janet and John happy in their new environment with lively classes, activities and even shiny new schools on the premises. The kids are all right? You betcha.

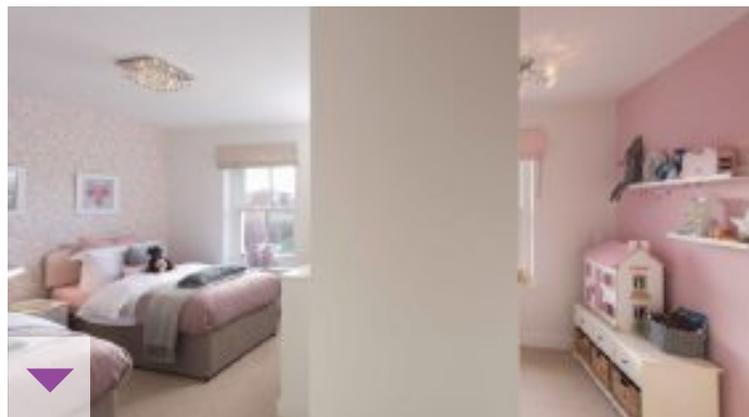
1 LILLIE SQUARE, EARLS COURT SW6
 FROM £820,000
 CAPCO's grand project not only provides smart homes for families in a new west London community. It also offers a dedicated kids' playroom right next to a private dining room – perfect for serving food and drink at parties – in the residents' clubhouse. Also on tap for adults recovering from too many rounds of Pass the Parcel is a gym, pool and treatment rooms.
www.lilliesquare.com



2 TIPI, WEMBLEY PARK HA9
 FROM £1,775 PER MONTH
 Quintain's build-to-rent scheme doesn't cater simply for professional singletons – it also has roomy apartments on its books. The Yellow Pavilion is a family-oriented extra that holds book swaps, and guitar and street dance lessons for kids. Plus there's an active parent and toddler group, the Wonderkids Football Academy and a cinema room to stop offspring complaining that they're bored.
www.tipi.london



3 GREENWICH PENINSULA, GREENWICH SE10
 FROM £525,000
 No 3 Upper Riverside is the latest stage – one of seven brand-new neighbourhoods – in this expanding riverside district. Families who purchase a one- to three-bedroom apartment here will benefit from Aperture, a six-storey community building with a crèche on the first floor. After a session of finger painting or several rousing choruses of "The Wheels on the Bus", parents can take their young 'uns to the ground level café/deli that lists children's dishes on the menu.
www.upperiverside.co.uk



4 DE MONTFORT PLACE, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE
 FROM £192,500
 Popular with starter families, this 152-unit scheme offers a variety of housing, from one-bed apartments to five-bed houses. Families are not forgotten – bedrooms have a dividing wall separating sleeping space from a play area or den. In addition, good use can be made of a new public open space consisting of landscaped gardens, play equipment and tennis courts. In addition, Help to Buy Government-backed equity loans are available on selected plots
www.storey-homes.co.uk



5 KIDBROOKE VILLAGE, GREENWICH SE3
 FROM £567,500
 Turning a run-down housing estate into a pleasant new neighbourhood should be commended. And so should the thought that's gone into making this spot a fun place for families. The list of amenities is extensive: two new parks – Cator and Sutcliffe – to discover on 136 acres of land, a sports centre with an athletics wall, skate park and climbing wall; OneSpace community centre's café, AstroTurf pitch, BMX facilities, baby ballet classes, football and yoga; and two primary schools. At Birch House, the latest phase, there's also a sky lounge, gym and concierge service for residents.
www.berkeleygroup.co.uk