

OAKLAND PRESS

My News — My Paper
October 30, 2006

50 cents
75 cents out of county

They make (a) room for baby

■ Couple create a business in the small world of nurseries

By LARA MOSSA
of The Oakland Press

Creating nurseries that capture a child's heart is the business Melanie and Brad Weber started out of their Oak Park home.

The couple launched Mother Nursery in January.

Since then, the company has designed several nurseries, some decked with dainty fabrics, others brightly colored in jungle themes.

A stimulating and calming environment is important for a child's room, whether a newborn or toddler, said Melanie Weber, 26.

Weber, who has a background in graphic design, became interested in nurseries when she designed a couple for friends and family.

Some did not have time to finish the nursery before their child was born, she said or didn't know the gender of the baby ahead of time. Others held off because of superstitions.

"Once the baby was born, they were focusing on the child and not completely the nursery," Melanie Weber said.

"There isn't enough time in the day to complete the nursery."

The Webers spent time developing a business plan and researching child development before leaving their jobs.

Melanie Weber quit her job as a graphic designer about a year ago. Her husband left his job in real estate sales.

Besides nurseries, the couple design rooms for children up to age 12 or 13. They also have a knack for playrooms.

Customers can hire the Webers for a \$300 consultation, which includes a design. Or they can hire the couple to do the entire project.

Mother Nursery does everything from hanging shelves and childproofing to three-dimensional cutouts and custom closets.

In addition, the business can help the family create an entire theme that includes bedding, window treatments, rugs and wall hangings.

Name: Mother Nursery
Owners: Melanie and Brad Weber
Business: interior design
Phone: 248544.4150
Website: www.mothernursery.com
Email: info@mothernursery.com
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m Monday through Friday, or by appointment

"We don't try to focus on a babyish-looking room," Melanie Weber said.

"We try to focus it so they can grow up (in it) as a child."

Rather than characters, the nursery designs tend to emphasize colors and textures, which are stimulation to the child, she added.

Some of the work, such as painted murals, is contracted. The couple work with different manufacturers

to find furnishings. Weber can also customize the décor with fabrics from the Michigan Design Center in Troy.

Mother Nursery includes the whole family in the design process. Even a 2-year-old can be involved, she said. For instance, a toddler might fall in love with a specific rug or delight in hanging butterflies.

“Their room is a place for them to live, learn, discover and dream,” Melanie Weber said.

The business launched an online store, too, which sells personalized gifts, bedding, diaper bags, carriers and other baby items.

Melanie Weber graduated from Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids in 2002.

Brad Weber earned a Realtor’s license in 2000. With a background in commercial and residential real estate, he also is a licensed builder.