

Wordpress Child Themes

A child theme allows you to take any theme and customize it without having to dig through the thousands of lines of code that may be within that particular theme. Also, any future theme updates will NOT overwrite your customization. In that way, it's very similar to the custom.css file that we created when working with Bootstrap.

Instructions:

1. On your desktop, or somewhere on your computer, create a folder called **nameofyourtheme-child**.
2. Create a new file in TextWrangler called **style.css** and save it to the **nameofyourtheme-child** folder.
3. Login to your Wordpress site, and navigate to Appearance / Editor. Your theme's main style sheet should show up.
4. Copy (Command + C) the first few lines of your theme's style code that are between the CSS comment codes. It should look something like this:

```
/*
Theme Name: Dazzling
Theme URI: http://colorlib.com/wp/themes/dazzling
Author: Colorlib
Author URI: http://colorlib.com/wp/
Description: Dazzling is a clean, modern, minimal and fully
responsive flat design WordPress WooCommerce theme well suited
for blogs, static and ecommerce websites.
Version: 1.3.6
*/
```

5. Paste (Command + V) that code into your new style.css file.
6. Now, you must change the Theme Name, so Wordpress recognizes it as a Child theme:

```
Theme Name: Dazzling Child
```

7. Add a Template below Author URI. The template is the directory of your main theme. For this example, it's dazzling (wp-content/themes/**dazzling**)

```
Template: dazzling
```

8. Edit the Description to reflect that this is a Child Theme.

9. Your style.css should now look something like this:

```
/*
Theme Name: Dazzling Child
Theme URI: http://colorlib.com/wp/themes/dazzling
Author: Colorlib
Author URI: http://colorlib.com/wp/
Template: dazzling
Description: This is a Child Theme for Dazzling
Version: 1.3.6
*/
```

10. Create a new file in TextWrangler, and call it functions.php. Save it to your **nameofyourtheme-child** folder. Type the following code into functions.php:

```
<?php

add_action( 'wp_enqueue_scripts', 'enqueue_parent_theme_style' );
function enqueue_parent_theme_style() {
    wp_enqueue_style( 'parent-style',
get_template_directory_uri().'/style.css' );
}
```

Now, anything you add below the “Theme customization starts here” comment line will be added to your theme. Go to town customizing colors, font styles, etc.

11. Save your style.css file, and navigate to public_html/yourstename/wp-content/themes

12. Drag the **nameofyourtheme-child** folder into the **themes** folder.

13. Login to your Wordpress Dashboard, and go to Appearance / Themes to use this new child theme. Update style.css in the Wordpress Editor as needed.