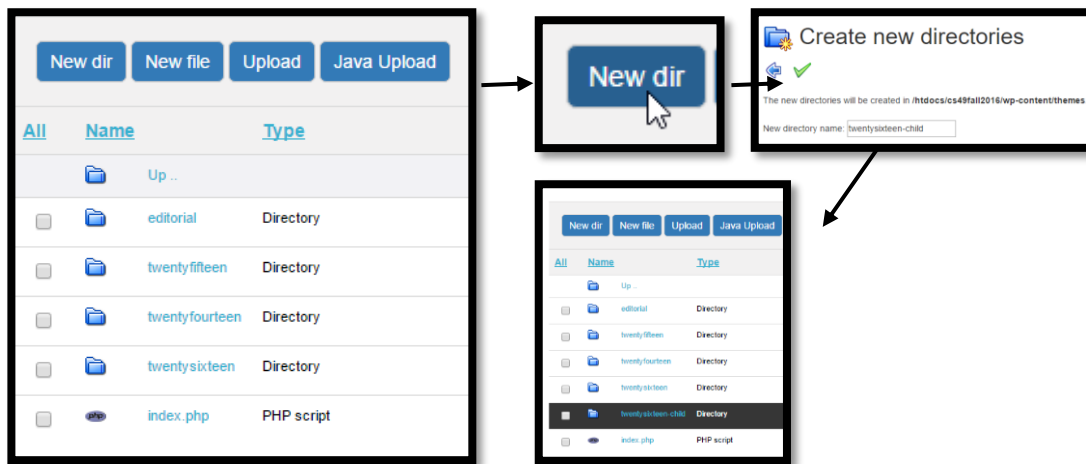


# Creating a Child Theme

Creating a child theme allows you to make modifications to the theme you are using without affecting the original theme's code. This means that when updates are installed and implemented for the theme, you won't lose the features or CSS styles you've added by modifying the theme. Creating a child theme means that a separate set of files are created which you can use to customize the theme -- without affecting the original theme at all. Not only does this make updating easier, it also makes sure that you will never ruin your original theme as you are never actually modifying the files. You can always choose to turn your child theme off and return back to the original.

## To create a child theme

1. In the **wp-content/themes** folder, create a new folder. I suggest naming the new folder using the same name as the original folder. I'm creating a child theme for the **twentysixteen** theme, so I'm naming the folder **twentysixteen-child**.



2. Open the folder that contains the original theme (in my case, **twentysixteen**).
3. Copy the **style.css** file from the original theme folder to the newly-created child theme folder you did in step 1.

Copy file **style.css** to:

Target directory:

Target name:

4. In the child theme folder, edit and then save **style.css**.

- a. Remove everything except for the stylesheet header.
- b. Add **Template: themename** someplace in the stylesheet header. In my example, since I'm using the **twentysixteen** theme, I entered the following:  
**Template: twentysixteen**
- c. Enter your customized CSS after the stylesheet header.

```
/*
Theme Name: Twenty Sixteen
Theme URI: https://wordpress.org/themes/twentysixteen/
Author: the WordPress team
Author URI: https://wordpress.org/
Description: Twenty Sixteen is a modernized take on an ev
Version: 1.3
License: GNU General Public License v2 or later
License URI: http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html
Tags: one-column, two-columns, right-sidebar, accessibility
Text Domain: twentysixteen

This theme, like WordPress, is licensed under the GPL.
Use it to make something cool, have fun, and share what y

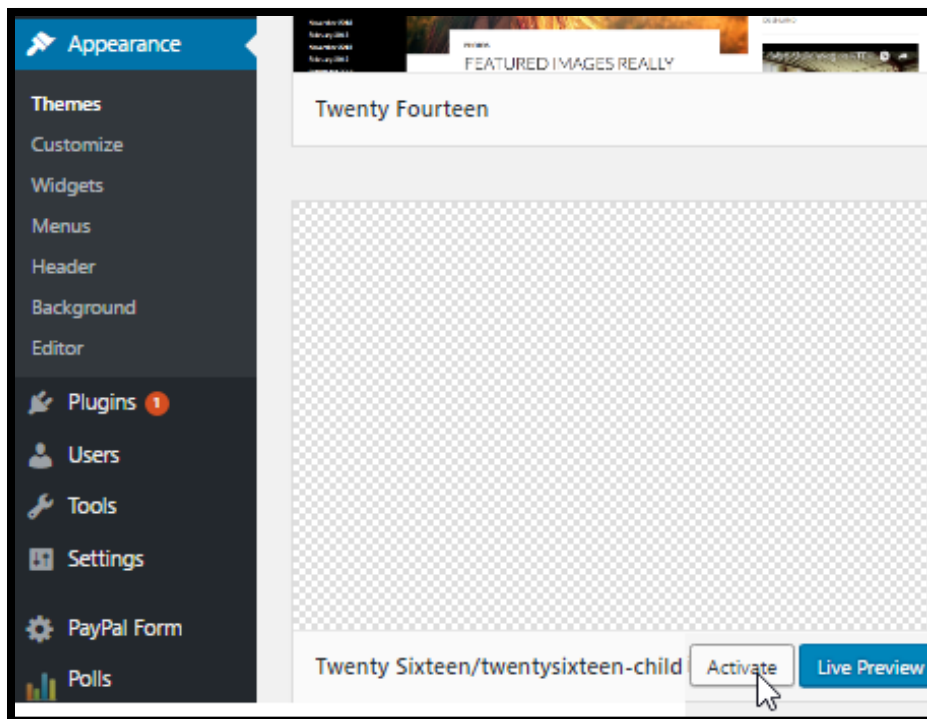
Template: twentysixteen
*/

body { background: purple !important;}
```

5. Create a file called functions.php in the child theme folder with the following code (substitutetwentyseventeen for the original theme name):

```
<?php
function my_theme_enqueue_styles() {
    $parent_style = 'twentyseventeen-style';
    wp_enqueue_style( $parent_style, get_template_directory_uri() . '/style.css' );
    wp_enqueue_style( 'child-style',
        get_stylesheet_directory_uri() . '/style.css',
        array( $parent_style ),
        wp_get_theme() -> get('Version')
    );
}
add_action( 'wp_enqueue_scripts', 'my_theme_enqueue_styles' );
?>
```

6. In your WordPress dashboard, go to **Appearance > Themes**. Your new child theme should be listed. To activate, click **Activate**.



Your customized theme is now activated!