



How to Make Moving Easier on Kids!

Moving to a new home may be stressful for you, but it's even tougher on your children. The good news? Kids are resilient, and they can also be incredibly adaptable. If you take the time to prepare them for what to expect, listen to their concerns, and help them to see the move as an adventure, chances are good that they'll come through it with flying colors. We've got tons of tips to turn it into a fun adventure for the whole family.

1. Prepare kids for what to expect. Young children might not have a good understanding of what the term "moving" really means. Explain to them exactly what will happen
2. Let the kids help you pack. If they're old enough, let your children help you pack some of their personal belongings. Even at a young age, kids can sort their toys and help you wrap objects in tissue paper or bubble wrap. If you'll be putting some things into storage, ask them what they would like to keep and what they don't mind parting with for a while.
3. Have a goodbye party. Give your kids an opportunity to say goodbye to the people who matter to them most. Children love a celebration, and this can be a great way to turn your move into a positive, exciting experience.

5. Don't rush yourself. It's hard to accomplish any task quickly with small children under foot. Give yourself lots of time to plan and execute your move. For example, packing with a 12 month-old who took items out of the boxes faster than I could put them in was quite a challenge (and required lots of patience). It took a long time, but I did finally finish.

6. Take kids' concerns seriously. Even toddlers can verbalize at least some of what they're feeling, and older children will probably have lots of questions and concerns. Always treat kids' feelings with respect, even when you can't accommodate their requests.

7. Time your move. Sometimes, circumstances dictate when you have to move. But, if you have a choice, try to time your move so that it occurs at a relatively calm period in your child's life. Take school schedules into consideration, and avoid moving when other big changes (like potty-training or sleeping transitions) are happening, too.

8. Pack one box of toys last. Your children are going to need things to do right up until the time you move out of your home. Don't make the mistake of packing all the toys up first because you'll be left with bored children who just might drive you crazy.

11. Label boxes of kids' stuff very clearly. The day will come when you find yourself digging through boxes looking for the toy that they absolutely have to play with right now. Do yourself a favor; don't just label boxes with the word "toys." Include as much detail about what is in the box as you can because, trust me, you won't remember.

12. Provide alternate entertainment. If babysitters are available, use them! You will get a lot more done if you can find a few kid-free hours. If you don't have childcare, find activities that will keep your little ones entertained while you work. A special DVD from Redbox or a new set of paints or modeling clay can go a long way in keeping kids busy.

17. Maintain familiar routines. Once you're in your new home, some things will have to change. But try to maintain the aspects of your life that are most important to your kids. Stick to familiar bedtime routines and continue your tradition of Saturday morning pancakes if you can.

18. Reassure kids that you are a constant in their life. When young kids lose the security of a home they've always known, they can become insecure about losing other important things in their life, too. Don't forget to reassure them that, even when homes and friends have to change, you will always be there for them.

19. Make a big deal about all the exciting new things you can do. A new home means new friends and new opportunities. Get out and explore all the cool new attractions that you can visit if you're in a new city, or take advantage of all the neat things your new home has to offer that your old home didn't.

22. Make it feel like home. Take your time unpacking, but also make it a priority to hang or display some of your cherished and familiar personal items as soon as possible. Familiar things will help to make a new house feel like home for both you and your children.

[*http://parentingsquad.com/tips-for-moving-with-young-children](http://parentingsquad.com/tips-for-moving-with-young-children)

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