

FORTY FUNTASTIC IDEAS FOR MOVING WITH CHILDREN

1. Collect maps, local brochures and pictures of new town, neighborhood and schools. Give child some familiarity with area (Be able to answer “How far is school from my house, etc.)”.
2. Label and decorate their own packing boxes with stickers and permanent markers (so it doesn't rub off). Boxes will be easily found upon arrival!
3. Allow child to help pack its own belongings. Have movers place child's belongings on last so they can be first off!
4. Use old suitcases to let child pack favorite belongings to carry with him/her on moving day. Decorate the suitcase with a special bow!
5. Collect postcards of zoo, museums and parks that family will be able to visit upon arrival in new home. This gives children something to look forward to.
6. Make a gift for a special friend and present it at a little get together or lunch.
7. Keep a journal/diary to record feelings during the moving process. Young children can dictate and draw pictures. Older children can write their own private thoughts to ease the stress.
8. Hang a map of your new town with landmarks highlighted. These could include new home, school, church and playground. *
9. Draw a floor plan of your new home and highlight child's room. Let your child draw in his/her own furniture and belongings.
10. Let children help with decisions about room decorations – picking out color etc.
11. Have a T-shirt party for friends! Tie-dye or dazzle paints T-shirts for a fun filled memento for friends.
12. Snuggle-time a bedtime! Spend a little extra time to talk to your children and listen to their concerns.
13. While snuggling, read a book to your child about moving. Ask about our Truehome booklists for children!
14. Make colorful signs for the rooms in your new home to stick up upon arrival. For example: Chad's room, Playroom. (Also helps movers!)

15. Create change of address cards for friends in old neighborhood then mail them upon arrival in your new home.
16. Put together a writing box/kit that includes friends' addresses, stamps, writing paper and stickers.
17. Play moving day with small children. Use dolls, stuffed animals, trucks and wagons.
18. Purchase and decorate address book to collect addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
19. Make a scrapbook of pictures of friends and favorite places in the old neighborhood.
20. Donate a book in your child's name to your local library before you move.
21. To celebrate friendships have a pizza party or make your own sundae party.
22. Have an autograph party to collect addresses and good wishes of friends. Use some of other friend ideas from this list to make party "memorable".
23. Let your child decide what he/she will wear on moving day and put it aside. Special shirts, etc. provide a sense of comfort.
24. Pack some toys and games (travel games work best), crayons and drawing paper. These may be packed in a special decorated box or in child's school backpack.
25. Pack child's lunch box or a picnic cooler with favorite drinks and snacks; especially when moving in the summer. Children can have something to drink and munch with minimal assistance during the hectic time of arrival.
26. For teens – check out the malls, movie theaters, etc. in the new community.
27. Visit schools while in session so children and teens as well, can see what is "in" for clothing and backpack styles.
28. Saturday night movie or pizza. Sunday mornings waffles. Maintain family rituals throughout moving process and after. This lets children know that home is where the family is.
29. Family meals and meetings are essential to talk over arrangements, plans and responsibilities. This makes children feel that they are a part of the process.

30. Family fun time, the family needs some down time to rest and relax.
31. Give little rewards for jobs completed. Sorting and packing is hard work!
32. Post a moving calendar so that children have a reminder of things to do and a sense of accomplishment as the tasks are checked off. (Ask about our Truehome children's calendar *later when available)
33. On moving day give your child a special job so that he/she has a sense of control over the situation. For example: sweep rooms after they are emptied.
34. Purchase a single-use camera and let your child take pictures on moving day. Then later your child can make a moving day scrapbook from his/her perspective.
35. Celebrate "first night" in your new home with sparkling apple cider for your children.
36. Take time after the move to explore special spots and attractions in your new town as well as playgrounds and restaurants. (Everything needn't be unpacked immediately)
37. Have a "camping in" night upon your arrival complete with sleeping bags, funny stories and s'mores!
38. Sign up for after-school activities/sports etc. so that your child gets a chance to meet other children of their own age and similar interests.
39. Take family walks to explore the new neighborhood.
40. Ask for our "Top Ten Websites" for Moving with Children.