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Preparing Your Child to Move

By dan the roommate man

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Children respond to the general atmosphere set in the home by the attitudes of their parents. If you look at moving as an exciting adventure full of new possibilities, then chances are very good that you will infect your children with enthusiasm and anticipation.

Many times we forget that making more money or moving to a larger home is not a change that children will understand. The younger the child, the less able they are to "see into the future" as you do. They tend to focus on losing the security they already know, along with missing friends and family. Your job is to turn the sadness and doubt into happiness. Ask yourself what advantages there are for the child in the move. For example, will the family be closer to Grandma, the ocean, or another favorite person, place, or activity?

One of the easiest ways to turn an unhappy frown into joy and excitement is to communicate frequently. Let your children know, step by step, what is happening and what is likely to happen next. Tell them what the move means to the family — how important it is that Mommy got a big promotion or that Daddy is opening a new office for his company, and how other aspects of the move will be good for the child.

Be ready for those "What about me?" questions by researching schools, churches, activities, and community amenities in advance, and offer your child choices and ways to participate where it is appropriate. Whenever possible, look up information on the Internet, or have your agent e-mail, fax, or mail vital information about the community so that you and your child can plan where to go and who to meet in order to help ease the transition into new activities and surroundings. Contact organizations with whom your child is already associated or with whom he or she has an interest, and ask for referrals to your new city. Knowing they won't have to give up favorite hobbies or sports goes a long way toward helping children adjust.

Making contacts with future friends, classmates, and fellow hobbyists can also go a long way toward helping your child's transition to a new home and environment. See if your agent, other transferees, or family can put you in touch with other children your child's age so that a chat room or e-mail friendship

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can begin.

Your Realtor should be able to show you your home either through e-mail, the local MLS service, or Realtor.com. Have your Realtor take pictures of your home and send them to you. Have fun by showing your child the new house plans, or draw them yourself and let your child cut out furniture and toys to place in the rooms. Show your child a typical day in the home as you go from room to room. Draw a map, and show how close Mommy and Daddy work, where schools are, where Aunt Bea lives, and other points of interest to help them orient themselves in their new surroundings.

If time and finances permit, take your child on a trip to visit your new city and home to get acquainted. If that's not possible, get on the Internet, and show him or her the city, neighborhood, and home where you'll be living. Most cities have Web sites available that offer a wide range of information, so you can

plan activities for after your move, such as visits to the theater, a visit to the local zoo, or a trip to a local restaurant that serves your child's favorite food.

Allowing your children to participate as much as possible makes the time they spend anticipating the move pass more quickly. Keep them occupied by letting them plan and pack a box or two of their special things. Consider their input on new decor and the layout of their new rooms. Encourage them to take the time to exchange good-byes with friends and loved ones and get addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers to stay in touch.

While you are preparing for the move, try to stick as closely to your normal routine as possible, and let your children know that, although they will soon live in a new house, the rules of the household will still be the same. Bedtime is still at 9 p.m., and homework must still be completed before TV time is allowed. And although Mom and Dad are a little busier and distracted with the move, they love their children very much and are giving the entire household a new opportunity to grow.

On moving day, have a bag packed of personal belongings for each member of the family, being careful to include medications, clothes, and personal items. Let your children choose what amusements and favorite "loveys" they wish to take along, and reassure them they will see their other favorite toys when they arrive in their new home.

Your preparedness will go a long way in reassuring your children that their needs are being considered.

Since 1989 dan the roommate man has helped 1000's of people find roommates. Need help? Contact him at 800-487-8050 or www.roommateexpress.com

How Reading Makes A Child Smart

By Jessica Davis

Reading makes you go to places. It allows you to turn back the hands of time. It will not limit you to

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write and express your thoughts. It will lead you to higher levels. And it is one of the best skills you could teach your child to develop. Reading is very important for it polishes a child's mind and makes him or her think in-depth.

As you teach a child to read now, it will be a way of preparing the child for a brighter future. It will surely enhance your child's language skills. It does not mean that if your child is not yet reading or speaking, you will not accept the idea of teaching reading. Though he or she is not reading any words, the child observes how you pronounce words and according to Bernice Cullinan, Professor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education at New York University children who learned reading have longer attention to give to listeners.

In addition, it is a way of preparing your child for some more complex words in the future. The English words that the child must learn should those be which are of his level. As they listen to you, make sure to make the words clear and point out the pictures on the book. This will allow them to recognize speech sounds and figures as well. Books about the things that are daily around them and activities they do are good examples

On the other hand, the reading of books will not just keep them educated but it is also one of the best forms of getting them entertained. Nursery rhymes and other books are very entertaining for your child. They would be realizing the fact that reading is not boring at all.

Reading will enhance your child's listening skill first. After absorbing all that you have read, the child would then develop speech skills. One of the most valuable things a child could develop from reading books is the skill of imagination.

This is also one way of showing your child that you really care. Moreover, reading time may serve as your bonding time together. A parent must always see to it that he is keeping track of his or her child's development and guide the child for the better.

Introduce reading to your child and you will introduce being smart for life...For it is in reading that he will discover a world of awe and wonder ahead.

Jessica Davis is a freelance writer for the Baby Times. She writes a regular column which is published every Thursday. Her latest 'favorite pick' is



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