

Kids and Relocation

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

If you're considering a move, you know that your children have a lot to do with your final decision. From the social aspects of leaving friends behind to the financial factors that can come with improving and decorating a new home, there are many things to consider before entering the real estate market.

Consider the following tips when making your choice, and remember to respect and nurture your children if they show dissent toward a potential move. This is their way of expressing their emotions, and it's up to you to guide them through the potentially difficult process.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DILEMMA

If you have school-age children, you know how critical the decision of choosing a new district can be. Does it have all the latest technology for student learning? Is the staff qualified, with a track record of success?

The answers to these questions are crucial to putting your mind at ease about a move. Trust your Realtor to lead you in the right direction if you're moving into an unfamiliar city or state. They will know the local educational landscape and be able to give you answers to any information you need on demographics, extracurricular activities



and future school growth plans.

If you're looking to really be proactive, talk with parents who have students in your target school district. Ask them about their children's experience. Find out about teacher-to-student ratios and the overall educational experience.

What you find out from these questions may sway your final decision.

PREPARE YOUR KIDS

How you handle the time

leading up to your move has a big impact on how easily your kids will adapt to their new environment. If your child retains and analyzes information almost to obsession, it's probably best to not give them months of warning ahead of time.

Children who show hesitation to the idea may be calmed by assurance that new friends are waiting for them in their new city.

Reassure them that, thanks to technology, they don't have

to worry about losing their current friends forever. It's easier than ever to keep in touch with others through social media, email and video chats.

Ease your children's trepidation by convincing them that they will still have these opportunities to connect with their friends.

PREPARE YOURSELF

The older your child, the more resentment or angst they may express if they are forced to leave their friends. If you

REAL ESTATE 101

Good Vibes

KidsHealth.org offers advice for parents on helping kids navigate the transition of a big move. Most important, according to KidsHealth, is staying positive: "The decision to move may be out of your hands, perhaps due to a job transfer or financial issues. Even if you're not happy about the move, try to maintain a positive attitude about it. During times of transition, a parent's moods and attitudes can greatly affect kids, who may be looking for reassurance." Read more tips at <http://bit.ly/25EdDWr>.

know it is coming, you can prepare yourself to better handle it through compassion and patience.

Youngsters may act out by throwing tantrums or crying fits. Teenagers may rebel against rules of the home or begin shutting down their communications with you. Handle these issues calmly, and be upfront about what is facilitating the move. A better job? To be closer to family? Whatever your reason, be honest with your kids and let them know you understand their reaction.



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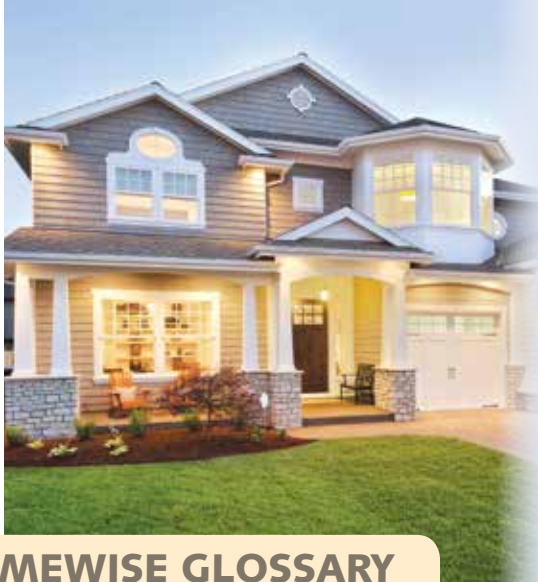
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HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

Payment shock: A scenario in which mortgage payments on an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) rise so high that the borrower may not be able to afford the payments.

Survey fee: Fee for obtaining a drawing of a property showing the location of the lot, any structures, and any encroachments. The survey fee is usually paid by the borrower.

SOURCE: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

AD SPACE