

"What about the children?"

Showing your home to prospective purchasers can be stressful enough, but children add an extra dimension and their needs should also be considered.

Moving house might be logical and exciting for an adult, but the fear of the unknown can be upsetting for children. That room or corner of the garden that has been their special place for most of the child's life, is about to be taken away from them as they are rocketed out of their comfort zone into unknown territory.

After you have made the decision to move, child psychologists usually advise telling the children as soon as you can. They are certain to find out one way or another and being up front with them will enable you to manage the process better and stay in control.

Parents nevertheless need to be sensitive when discussing the move, and make a point of highlighting the exciting aspects of a new home. Ask your child what they would like to find in their ideal home. They don't have to have a major influence on your decision, but their apparent involvement in the process will pay dividends.

Likewise, if your children regard the move as a positive thing they are more likely to be co-operative when buyers come to view your property. A stress-related temper-tantrum as the buyer walks through your door is to be avoided at all costs! Indeed, no matter how sweet your children may be, they are likely to be a distraction to a prospective buyer than an advantage. This is one of the many reasons why we always aim to accompany purchasers around our client's property. So our respectful advice is this: ideally, leave the viewing to the trained agent and take the children (and the dog) for a walk!



Overleaf you will find a Children's Agreement, which we hope will encourage your children to work with you in your move.





Moving house is exciting!

Children's Agreement

I, agree to help our family move house by:

1. Tidying my bedroom every morning
2. Making sure my things are not scattered around the house
3. Making sure bikes and stuff are not lying around the garden
4. Turning on the lights before people come round
5. Flushing the loos before people come round
6. Turning off the radio and TV before people come round
7. Keeping really quiet when people come round
8. Being polite to people when they look at the house
9. Being proud of our house
10. Generally being good!

Signed

Dated

