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# **Essential Relocation Tips for Parents of Children with Autism**

Moving to a new home can be an exciting yet stressful time for any family, but it can be especially challenging for those with children who have autism. While the process may seem formidable, there are ways to navigate this transition to make it as smooth as possible. If you're looking at a potential move in the near future, <u>Kern Autism Network</u> has some great tips to help you manage your transition and support your child at the same time.

### **Research Neighborhoods Thoroughly**

When looking for a new home, it is important to <u>research potential neighborhoods</u> <u>carefully</u>. Consider factors such as crime rates, school district ratings, and nearby services that could benefit your child, such as special education programs or support groups. Also, <u>look into the noise levels</u> of the neighborhood as loud noises can be difficult for those on the spectrum.

### **Find Nearby Special Education Services**

It is also beneficial to look for homes <u>near special education services</u> specifically geared toward those with autism. This way your child will have access to tailored programs

and resources that can help them thrive during this transition period. Having access to these services can provide peace of mind knowing that your child has the appropriate support when needed.

### Focus on Houses You Can Afford

Only look at homes that you can easily afford so you don't end up in over your head financially. Luckily, there are plenty of options out there, including <u>nearly 800 homes for sale</u> in Bakersfield alone. However, there are a few key components to consider such as your annual income, how much you'll need for a down payment, monthly expenses, and the cost of the homes in the area where you intend to move. Every element of this process is important when it comes to budgeting and making sure that you get the most bang for your buck.

### **Explore Financing Options**

Once you know your desired type of home and price range, be sure to <u>explore various</u> <u>financing options</u>. Doing research can help you find specialized lenders that fit your needs and budget, and makes it easier to move forward with purchasing a house. Additionally, these lenders may offer other resources or advice that could benefit the process. There are also <u>grants that caregivers of people with disabilities</u> can qualify for, which are definitely worth exploring.

### **Find Reputable Movers**

Making sure you <u>connect with reputable movers</u> is essential when making a transition with an autistic child. Researching and reading customer reviews beforehand can put you at ease knowing that your belongings will arrive safely and without issue. Furthermore, movers who understand the difficulty of the transition can minimize disruption or distress during this time.

### Help Your Child Prepare

<u>Preparing your child for a major transition</u> such as moving or buying a new home is important. Discussing different aspects of their possible new life can help them adjust, such as the noise levels, or people they may meet in the area. This conversation allows them to visualize and feel more comfortable with their upcoming change before it occurs.

### Focus on Keeping Your Home Organized and Safe

Before the move, work with your child to create an organizational strategy in their room. If your child gets used to <u>using storage bins and color-coded organization</u>, then it will be easier to grab those bins instead of dumping all of the contents into a different box. Plus, when you arrive at the new house, your child will already know what goes where, which can bring a sense of relief from the familiarity.

After the move, it is important to <u>keep your home organized</u> and decluttered to make sure that you're able to maximize every inch of space. Before buying any new items for your home, make sure you have enough space to accommodate them or figure out what needs to be moved around or removed to better fit these items. This will help you avoid having too much clutter and ensure that your house looks neat and tidy.

Something else to bear in mind: it's possible that poor air quality could be especially <u>harmful to kids with autism</u>, so even though you already obviously have a lot on your plate, it's worth taking some time to make things as tidy as possible. In addition to regular cleaning, installing a range hood to provide <u>more fresh air in the kitchen</u> can make a big difference.

## Get Your Business Up and Running Again Quickly

Normalcy isn't just important for your children; it's important for you, too, so do your best to get things set up quickly. If you run a home-based business and you have moved to another state, you'll need to file your paperwork there before operating. If you're uncertain which designation to choose, an LLC is a popular choice because of the legal protections and tax benefits. Also, you can <u>start an LLC in California</u> with the help of a formation service that's already familiar with local regulations and can get you set up quickly.

#### Prepare Your Family for the Move

Moving can be especially difficult for parents of children with autism. By preparing ahead of time and following the essential relocation tips discussed in this article, you can make the transition to your new home as smooth and stress-free as possible. With detailed planning, consulting with experts, and having sources of support readily available, you can ensure that both you and your child have a successful relocation experience.

#### <u>Kern Autism Network</u> is working hard to empower those with autism. Call 661-489-3335.