

## Helping Your Child Make Friends After Moving

When kids move, they leave their old friends behind and face the challenge of making new friends in a different neighbourhood. This transition can be especially stressful if they are also starting at a new school, often leading to feelings of anxiety. So, how can you help your child make friends in their new neighbourhood?

- Visit local parks, the community centre, and library. These are great spots where your child can meet other kids their age and start building friendships.
- Register your child for camps and team sports where they can make lots of new friends at once.
- Join local neighbourhood groups online and ask if there are families with kids around the same age, especially those going to the same school, who might be interested in arranging some playdates.
- Model good social skills, which will make it easier for them to make and keep friends. For example, introduce yourself



and your child to people you meet in the neighbourhood.

- For pre-school children, join local playgroups and register for parent and tot classes.

If your child is missing their old friends, remind them that they can keep in touch regularly through video chat and, if possible, still have playdates.



## Moving Between City and Suburbia

The rise of hybrid work has made it easier to live further away from your workplace. Even if you aren't in a hybrid work environment but maybe considering moving between a city and the suburbs, read on for some food for thought.

**Transportation** — If you don't have a car and you're considering moving to the suburbs, you may need to invest in one, since things are generally further apart.

If you are moving to the city, it may be more economical to get rid of your car and rely on public transit, car sharing, or ride share services instead. City parking can be pricey, so it's worth considering other transportation options.

**Amenities** — With more options in cities for eating out, shopping, and entertainment, you may be tempted to spend more money, whereas the options for dining and shopping in the suburbs may be limited.

**Space** — Homes in the suburbs are generally larger with more space to furnish, as well as a yard and driveway to maintain. However, if you are moving to the city, you may have less space and need to downsize furniture and other belongings and find ways to maximize your space.

Moving to a place with a different lifestyle can be an adjustment, so a good way to ease into it is to "test drive" the area with a short-term rental before making your final decision.

## Interior Design: Mistakes to Avoid

Design missteps can turn potential homebuyers away. To make a great first impression, here are some common blunders to avoid:

- Oversized furniture, or too many pieces in a room, can make it feel cramped. On the other hand, furniture that's too small can make the room feel incomplete.
- Not enough seating for people to converse comfortably.
- Avoid pushing furniture against the walls. Space permitting, pull pieces out at least a few inches for a more open, airy feel.
- No focal point. Eyes need something to rest on, like an area rug that occupies most of the room.
- Lack of colour scheme can make a space feel disjointed. For patterns, use no more than three different patterns (with one being dominant) for a harmonious look.
- Curtains that are too short or long. Except for smaller windows, like those in a bathroom, or above furniture or a heater, curtains should hover just above the floor. To make the ceilings appear higher, hang them about 4 inches above the top window frame.
- Too little or too much light. Layer with different light sources to add dimension and maximize natural light.

With these design tips in mind, you can create a visually pleasing home for a successful sale.

