

## **TAKING YOUR CHILDREN HOUSE HUNTING**

Families who prefer to take their children house hunting can be a good experience or the opposite. Therefore, planning and preparing ahead of time will make a great experience for the entire family. Involving the children in the process of moving is a good way to ease the tension associated with moving. Taking your children along will help get them excited about the idea of having a new home. See tips below on how to make house hunting as comfortable as possible for both children and parents.

### **NARROW YOUR LIST**

It is not necessary to take your children to see every home that is on your list. Wait until you have narrowed your list for the most passionate properties you are interested in. Or, at least limit house tours to three or less hours per day when the kids are along. Avoid making the kids tired and bored with the process.

### **THE RULES**

Communicate with your children the importance of going through someone else's home and to treat the sellers and their property with respect. Keep your children close to you and in the same room while you are doing your walk through. If sellers are present, your children should be told to keep their opinions about the house to themselves until you leave. Negative comments can sway an owner to sell to another buyer and positive ones could work against you when trying to negotiate a lower price.

### **GIVE THE KIDS A TASK**

Depending on the age of your children, let them take notes on the properties you are looking at. They can record information about the houses to go over later such as location, yard space, school, number of rooms, etc. They can add their thoughts about the house too and help them remember the homes and to make them feel included in the process.

### **BE PREPARED**

Equip your children with games, books, and small toys in case they become bored and tired. Bring along music for the car if you will be driving for extended periods in between properties. Have a small cooler with snacks and drinks to keep energy level up and don't forget to know where the rest spots are for bathroom breaks. Most owners do not encourage use of their bathrooms when showing properties.

### **TAKE A BREAK**

If you pass a park or playground close to a property you are interested in, let your kids have a quick break to play. This will also give you an idea of the local lifestyle and let you see if there are other children the same age as yours in the neighborhood.

### **TIMING IS EVERYTHING**

Schedule showings to look at homes in the morning or after nap time when your kids are happy and rested.

### **ASK FOR INPUT**

Even though the final decision on what home to purchase is yours, ask your children for their opinions. This will let them know you value their thoughts on the potential new home and neighborhood.