

# Prime Relocation

## Relocating with Children



If you are relocating to Switzerland with children, the move will involve a little more preparation, but don't worry because the chances are that the children will greatly enjoy their new home and environment.

### Involve the children

The most important aspect of the relocation is to inform the children in good time of the impending move and to involve them in the decision-making processes. Depending on their age, it is sensible to engage them in the decision about where to live, which school is right for them and to ask them for their opinions, where appropriate.

Relocating with teenage children involves more emotional turmoil and soul-searching than with younger children, as the older the children the more resistance they will show and the more reluctant they will be to leave their friends behind, initially. In this case, stay strong and convinced of your decision and they will more than likely enjoy it and adjust efficiently. Many a reluctant teenager has moved to

Switzerland and simply loved the experience!

### Prepare Well

Taking time to prepare and discuss the move ahead of time is a bonus. It is a good idea to use pictures and postcards from the internet as way of preparation, as this mental preparation will certainly smooth the relocation path. If possible, it is advisable to have a

"look and see" trip with the kids to enable them to visualise and feel part of the decision-making process.

Any move abroad involves adjustment and change whether it be a transcontinental move or a European move. Parents have to adjust as well and not surprisingly enough, children can and do adjust often more easily than the parents.

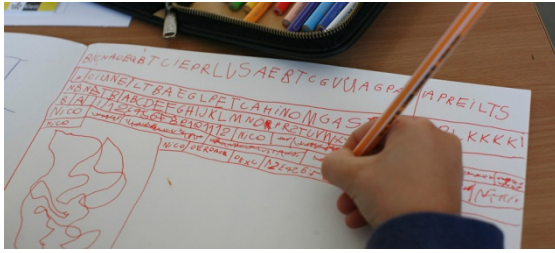
### Focus on the Positives

As parents being convinced of the move will be a major help, as how you approach

the move will have the largest impact on the family and affect their overall experience. Of course there will be negatives, but try to be open-minded and courageous and focus on the positive aspects. Think of it as a new adventure.

### Switzerland is a Paradise for Kids

Many children enjoy the safe, clean environment Switzerland offers. There is skiing at weekends, snow (!), outdoor swimming pools, swimming in the lakes, mountains, cable-cars, chair-lifts, mountain chalets, thermal bathing spas, mountain biking and hiking paths – what else could a child wish for! Switzerland offers endless opportunities for enjoying life and children in particular have lots of freedom to move in Switzerland. It is a fantastic healthy environment in which to raise children.



### What about the Emotional Impact?

Researchers have discovered in fact that expatriate children grow up to be intelligent, articulate, interesting and diversity-embracing adults. So go ahead and give them the chance of a lifetime to have a life-altering, enriching experience.

Being able to see and do new things as a family, taste unfamiliar cuisine, experiment with new hobbies and come to terms with a whole new language and cultural surrounding is a unique opportunity and a way of bonding together. Indeed, by working together as a family unit, talking openly about things, listening and supporting each other, the new experience will be easier to cope with for all.

### Embrace Change

Once you have arrived, it is important to be proactive, get involved in the children's school, join a social club or sign up for a language course. By being active and making the effort to meet new people, you will find the adjustment easier. There's always somewhere to go and people to meet – the feeling of not knowing what's coming next is a good thing and can be very exciting. Share that excitement with the children by showing them that you want the adventure too. G