Preparing to Move to a New House.

KiDMunicate
PEDIATRIC SPEECH THERAPY
Social Stories Series
We are going to sell our house and move to a new house.

Ask for the Powerpoint® version so you can put a picture of your house.
We are going to live in the new house we bought.

Ask for the Powerpoint® version so you can put a picture of the actual house you are going to move to.
We will put all of our things in boxes.

We will mark the boxes, so we know what’s inside.
You will help us put your things in a box that we will mark with your name.

We will pack these last.
We will leave a few of your favorite things out of the box so you can use them during the ride to the new house.
Some big strong people will load all of our boxes on a big truck.
They will also put our furniture on the big truck.
The truck driver will drive all of our things to our new house.
When the truck gets to our new house, the movers will unload all of our furniture and boxes and put them in the new house.
You will help us unpack the box with your name on it.
Until we unpack all the boxes and put the furniture in place, the house will be very cluttered.
The best thing about moving is you get to play in the boxes after they are unpacked.
Your new room will look a lot like your old room because we are moving all of your furniture and things into your new room.

Ask for the Powerpoint® version so you can put a picture of your child’s room.
The house will be different, but we will all be together just like we were in our old house.
10 tips to prepare your child for a move.

1. Use this picture story to start preparing your child for the move to a new house.
   • We recommend that you read the story every day at the same time during the weeks leading up your move.

2. Customize the picture story to make it as relevant as possible for your child.
   • We offer a Powerpoint™ version of the story so you can insert pictures of your current house, the new house, your child’s bedroom, etc.

3. Put the moving day on a calendar and count down the days with your child.

4. Have your child help pack boxes, especially the things from his/her room, and mark the box with his/her name.
   • Explain that he/she will help unpack these same boxes in his/her new bedroom in the new house.

5. Don’t let your guard down during this chaotic time.
   • Stacked boxes and open doors can be dangerous to a child with autism.
   • You might want to arrange to have your child stay at a friend’s or relative’s house during moving day.
   • The empty house could be upsetting to a child with autism.
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6. Don’t pack away all of your child’s favorite things.
   - Favorite items like a book, action figures, crayons, stuffed animal, favorite blanket, etc. can provide comfort and distraction during the move.

7. Inform your new neighbors that your child has special needs.
   - They will be more understanding and helpful.

8. No matter how much you prepare your son/daughter, anticipate that moving will be difficult.
   - You might want to set up their room to look similar to the old house and have it set up before your son or daughter goes to the new house.

9. Moving will be stressful for you, so try to relax and even enjoy the adventure. This will send a signal to your child that everything is going to be OK.

10. Moving to a new school district?
    5. Contact the school and let them know about your child’s needs.
    6. Share the IEP
    7. Take a tour of the school with your child before school starts.