

## **Family-First Moving Checklist: Streamlined Plan for Parents**

### **6–8 Weeks Out: Set the Foundation**

- Talk openly about the move, timeline, and what stays the same; invite questions and feelings.
- Map essentials near the new home: schools, childcare, parks, pediatrician, dentist, urgent care, after-school options.
- Start school transfers: request records, immunizations, IEP/504 (if applicable), and note enrollment deadlines.
- Create a family calendar with packing milestones, appointments, goodbyes, and key school dates.

### **4–5 Weeks Out: Declutter and Organize**

- Sort with kid input: keep, donate, sell, pass-along; let each child keep a few comfort “must-haves.”
- Reduce clothing, toys, and books; photograph sentimental items before donating.
- Order supplies: small/medium and wardrobe boxes, tape, packing paper, bubble wrap, markers, zip bags, clear bins.
- Set a “Do Not Pack” zone for documents, meds, devices, chargers, comfort items, and next-day outfits.

### **2–3 Weeks Out: Prep Rooms and Routines**

- Pack low-use items first; keep daily essentials out until the final days.
- Label by child/room and priority: “Open First,” “Week One,” “Later”; number boxes and keep a simple list.
- Photograph wiring and room setups (desks, gaming, shelves) for quick re-creation.
- Confirm childcare/help for heavy packing days and moving day.

### **The Week Before: Comfort and Continuity**

- First-Night kit per child: pajamas, two outfits, toiletries, favorite plush/blanket, bedtime book, nightlight, snacks, water bottle, school basics.
- Family Go Bag: medications, compact first-aid, wipes, sanitizer, chargers, power bank, documents, small cash, keys.
- Keep routines steady: meals, bedtimes, screen limits; plan simple, familiar dinners.
- Plan goodbyes: brief class moment, playdate, a signature page or photo book.

### **Moving Day: Safety and Smooth Flow**

- Arrange supervision: ideally, have young kids off-site; otherwise set a quiet “safe room” with crafts/snacks.
- Stage the home: clear paths, protect floors, cluster labeled boxes near exits.

- Load kids' items last so they unload first; make beds before evening.
- Keep the Go Bag with you; never load meds or essential documents on the truck.

### **Travel Logistics with Kids**

- By car: schedule breaks, rotate activities, preload audiobooks/playlists, verify car-seat fit and safety.
- By air: extra outfits, snacks, empty water bottle, wipes, headphones, comfort item in each child's backpack; pre-download entertainment.

### **First 48 Hours: Settle Fast**

- Sleep first: set up beds, nightlights, essential curtains/blinds, and white-noise or a fan.
- Create a familiar corner: favorite books, plush toys, small rug, a couple of framed photos.
- Rebuild study spot: desk, lamp, supplies, chargers to restore school routines.
- Walk the neighborhood: park, school route, library, and a nearby café/ice-cream spot.

### **School and Activities**

- Confirm enrollment, bus/transport, after-care; schedule tours if available.
- Transfer sports and lessons; try trial classes to re-establish routine.
- Build social bridges: join parent groups, set intro playdates, practice simple self-introductions.

### **Emotional Check-Ins**

- Daily "rose, thorn, bud": best thing, hardest thing, what's ahead.
- Memory and meaning: photo book of the old home; create a "new home wish list."
- Watch stress signals (sleep shifts, clinginess, school resistance); counter with routine and small, child-led choices.

### **Age-Specific Tips**

- Toddlers/Preschool: stick to naps/bedtime; use picture books about moving; change one thing at a time.
- Elementary: involve them in labeling and room planning; let them choose décor or a first-week activity.
- Tweens/Teens: include them in scheduling and school research; respect privacy, friends, and online connections.

### **Contacts Movers Hammond:**

**Phone**        [+1 \(888\) 711-4778](tel:+1(888)711-4778)  
**Email**        [info@lifetimemoversoh.com](mailto:info@lifetimemoversoh.com)  
**Address**     28 N Erie Street, Suite 500, Toledo, OH 43604