

# The Girl Who Didn't Want to Move

A story about change from  **Zillow**







Iris lived in a house  
with a white door.

She lived there with her two  
special friends, Jupitus and Annika.




They were lucky to live there,  
because this happened to be

**the best house in the world.**





A child is hiding in a closet, peeking out from behind a blue jacket. The closet is filled with various items of clothing, including a green dress, a red and yellow striped scarf, a red polka-dot dress, and a pink plaid dress. A green bird with large eyes and a yellow beak is perched on the wooden railing of a staircase, looking down into the closet. The background is a dark blue night sky with a large, textured purple tree. The scene is set in a house with wooden stairs and railings.

Iris knew all the best places to  
hide in the house.

She always won at hide and seek.



She knew all the best places to  
look for worms in the garden.





Her friends all lived nearby.

They would meet after school and hunt  
Sky-Tigers on their flying bicycles.







It was the best house, in the best place.



Then one day,

at dinner,

Iris's parents told her  
something she never  
expected to hear.





They told her that they found a different house to live in.

And soon, they would all move there.





Iris cried so much that her  
face went all red and snotty.

*“But we live in the best house in the world.”*





She ran to her room  
and had a big cuddle  
with Jupitus.



Annika was so nervous  
about leaving that steam  
came out of her ears.

Iris had never felt so sad.



Iris's Mommy sat on the bed and  
showed her pictures of the new house.

She talked about all the things  
that would be nice about it.







The garden had a lot of big rocks for worms to hide under. There were two hoses. And Mommy said Iris could decorate her bedroom walls however she wanted.

“Even glitter?” Iris asked.

Mommy smiled. “Some glitter.”

Iris felt a little better.  
But it still wasn’t her house.







Before long it was time to start getting ready for the move.

Mommy said:  
“We’re going to start packing soon,  
so think about which of your things you  
want to take with you to the new house.”





After a day  
to take ALL





Iris's Daddy had a different idea.

“Let's donate the toys you don't play with  
to children who need them.

And let's put everything else in the trash.

Including Charlie.”







The three friends agreed the move  
was going very badly so far.





Moving day came, and things got even worse.

Two men, both named Phil, started to put everything into an enormous moving truck.

The house began to look less and less like home.



Iris told one of the Phils that the move had been canceled and they should bring everything back inside.

Phil chuckled but kept on packing up the truck.

So Iris went and told the other Phil.

He didn't stop packing either.







Soon their house was empty.

Iris looked around. She felt empty, too.

The three friends walked from room to room,  
remembering all the things that had happened in them.



They looked at the marks on the kitchen wall  
that showed how much Iris had grown.

When Mommy saw this she started to cry.

“You don’t want to move either!” said Iris.



Iris ♥

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Iris's Mommy explained that **moving is hard**.

When she was a little girl she moved all  
the way across the sea from China.

It was the hardest thing she ever did.



“So why would you do it again?” asked Iris.

“It was hard,” said Iris’s Mommy.

“But it was the greatest adventure of my life.”





As they drove away from home for the last time, Iris comforted Annika and Jupitus.

“I know it’s hard. But Mommy and Daddy wouldn’t do this unless they really, really, really believed it was right.”







They drove through the night.

And when the sun came up,  
they were in a new place.

“Wake up Iris,” whispered Daddy.

Iris saw a house with a blue door.



“I guess this is it,” said Iris.

“I don’t know about this,” said Annika.

**But Iris bravely led them up the stairs.**





Her new room was a little bigger,

but it didn't feel like her room.

Then Phil and Phil started to bring all her special things in.





Jupitus and Annika helped her put everything into place and soon it was feeling like Iris's room.

And then, from outside, they heard:

“Hey!”

“Hello!”





It was a girl on a pink bicycle.

“Wanna come and play?”

Iris wasn't sure. She liked her old friends at her old house. But she went down to meet her.

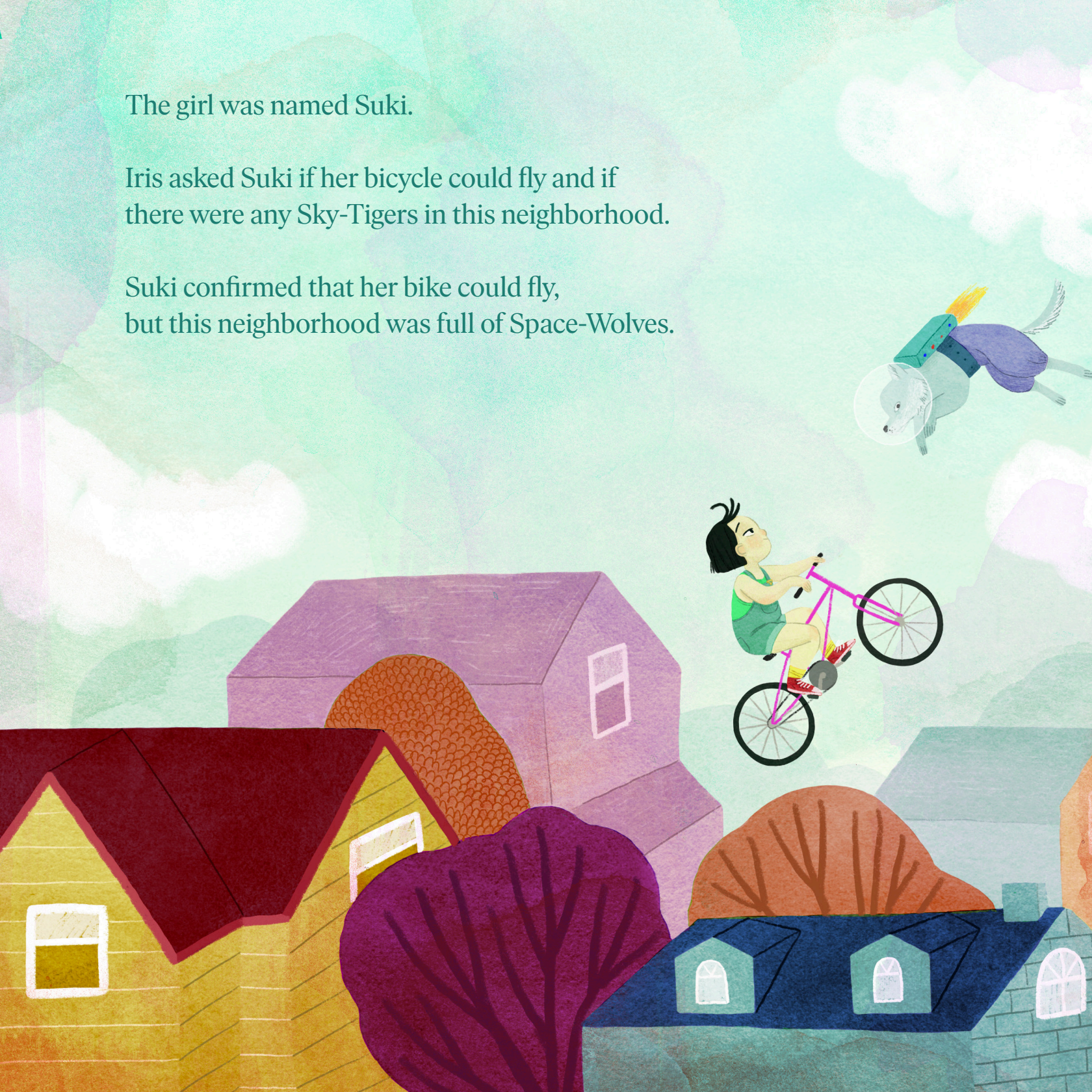




The girl was named Suki.

Iris asked Suki if her bicycle could fly and if there were any Sky-Tigers in this neighborhood.

Suki confirmed that her bike could fly, but this neighborhood was full of Space-Wolves.











All that practice with  
Sky-Tigers made Iris  
a natural at spotting  
a Space-Wolf.

Suki was impressed.



Together they  
found all the best  
places to hide.

Hide and seek  
was more fun  
in a new place.





There were plenty of worms to find, but they  
also found a beetle they hadn't seen before.

They named it Buggy McBugface.





An illustration of a boy and a wolf swinging on a rope against a large, yellow full moon. The boy, Daniel, is a young Black child with glasses, wearing a purple shirt, brown shorts, and blue sneakers. He is holding the rope with both hands and is in the middle of a swing. The wolf, Suki, is a grey wolf with yellow eyes and a green collar, also swinging on the rope. The background is a dark blue night sky with a large, textured yellow moon. The rope is a thick, brown, braided cord. The overall style is a soft, painterly illustration.

Suki knew a boy named Daniel who had a rope-swing in his garden that reached all the way to the moon.

Together they would all swing as high as they could and catch angry Space-Wolves.



After a few months, some old  
friends from home came to visit.

Iris was excited to show  
them around.





She showed them how  
to find Space-Wolves.

And showed them the  
rope-swing to the moon.

And then she realized  
something amazing. . .





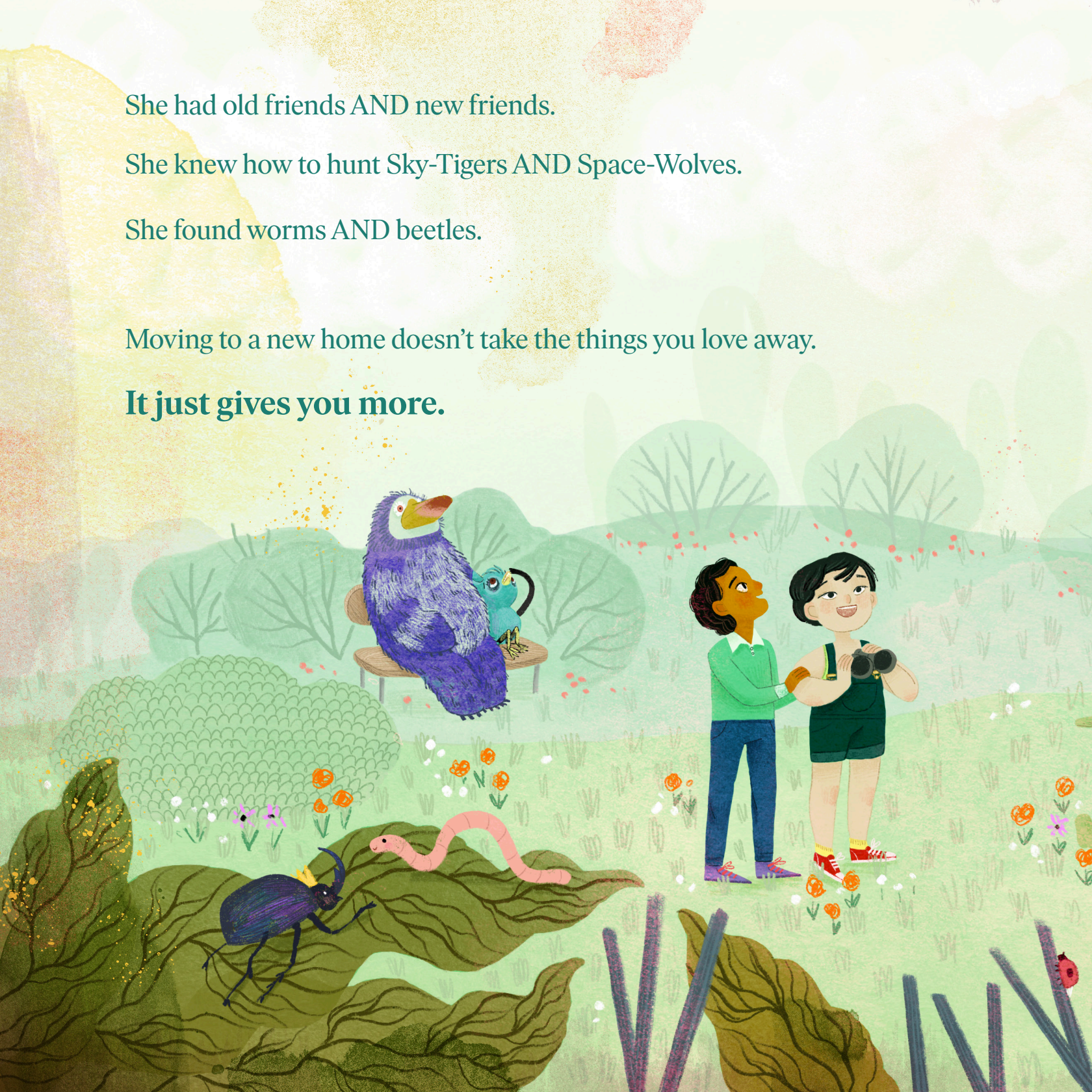
She had old friends AND new friends.

She knew how to hunt Sky-Tigers AND Space-Wolves.

She found worms AND beetles.

Moving to a new home doesn't take the things you love away.

**It just gives you more.**











That night at bedtime, Iris's  
Mommy said to the three of them:

“Are you glad we moved?”

Iris snuggled down into bed.



Then she smiled and said, "It was hard.  
But it's going to be a great adventure."











The End.







## Discussion Guide For Parents

As parents, we all have something in common. We want the best for our children. We move to create a better life for our children, to develop connections and to grow as a family.

Having three children myself, I know personally that moving to a new home can be emotional and scary. Yet moving can help build resilience and open new opportunities.

Parents, you can use Iris's story to start a family conversation about your upcoming move. It's a conversation you will want to have as early as possible to give your child a chance to process this big change, and work through the emotions and questions they may have along the way. Remember to actively listen without jumping in to problem solve, validate their emotions and empathize with what your child is exhibiting through each stage of the moving process.

Children have a stronger sense of control over their moving anxiety when they directly participate in moving-related activities. You can take these steps to ensure your family's move is a positive experience. Every one of these tips is an intervention I have applied as a parent myself.

Remember, a new home is the beginning of a new adventure and new memories.



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*Parenting, Education and Behavior Expert*



**Share as much information as you can** about the new house and new community in a developmentally appropriate way. Children under the age of 10 are concrete learners and would benefit from hands-on materials to help. Use a map to show them where their new home will be, where the closest park is or where their school will be. Look at photos on Zillow and take a 3D Home virtual tour of the new place and surrounding neighborhood. This is especially helpful if your child has not had the opportunity to see your new home yet.

**Check in with your own emotions** prior to your conversations with your child. Focus on the positive life events, possibilities and new opportunities that could come with the move.



**Make a memory box** with items that remind them of their current home and neighborhood. Explain that although they are leaving special friends behind, they will have a memory box filled with special items to show their new friends.

**Host a goodbye party for friends.** Help your child create a concrete method for how they can all keep in touch by email, writing letters, phone calls or video chat.





**Prior to moving day**, establish a date for when you will come back and visit friends.

**Contact your child's new school before you move.** Ask them if they can pair your child up with a buddy. It can be scary trying to make new friends and coming into a classroom that might already be in place.

**Unpack as soon as possible.** The longer your child sees boxes, the more they will feel unsettled.



**Give them a sense of belonging** and ownership, by having them decorate their room and make it their own.

**Consistency is key.** Get back to your typical family routine with established bedtimes, family time and mealtimes.

**Have a family picnic** in your new backyard or patio. Ask your child what new adventures and memories they would like to create in their new home. Some examples are: an obstacle course, scavenger hunt, carving your family name in your tree or creating a family mission statement to hang in your new home.

