

# PCS CHECKLIST

## Kids edition



### 3-6 months Before the Big move

- With help from mom and dad, research your new community. Locate pictures of nearby parks, your new school and other exciting local gems to explore when you arrive!
- Ask your parents to help you get registered for the sports teams and clubs of your choice. This will help you begin making new friends in your new community quickly!

### 1 month Before the Big move

- Ask your friends in your current school and neighborhood for email addresses and physical addresses to keep in touch. One of the most exciting parts of being a military kid is having friends all over the world!
- Declutter your current bedroom and limit what you will need to unpack in your new bedroom. You can even donate your old clothes, books and toys to a local charity.

### The week of The Big move

- Pack a bag of all of your favorite things. This bag should not be packed on moving day - it will travel with you, so choose carefully. Some great options are stuffed animals you sleep with, toys you always play with, comic books you don't want to be lost or torn during the move, activities for traveling and photographs of your friends.

### during the Big move

- On the day of the big move, don't just hop into the car. Say goodbye to your neighbors and home and take it all in. Today should not be a sad day. Being a military kid is an adventure, and today is just a new chapter of your exciting story!
- Talk to your parents about what you are excited about and what you are afraid of. Moms and Dads are good for making the exciting stuff more exciting, and the scary stuff a lot less scary.

### arriving in your new Community

- When you see a neighbor outside, say, "hello," and introduce yourself. You never know who you will meet or how they will help you survive your PCS.
- Explore, explore, explore. Learning about a new place is exciting, so ask your parents to take you out exploring your new community and make a "must-see" list. From new eateries and ice cream shops to art galleries and museums, you may be starting to realize now that you're going to be ok here.
- Give your mom and dad a big hug. This PCS is hard on them, too! And even though they are busy unpacking, making phone calls to turn on the lights or trying to fill the fridge, YOU are their #1 priority. Let them know that you are a team and... saying "I love you" doesn't hurt either.