



Things to Think About!

Looking to Relocate?

By Linda Jorgensen

When considering a big move to another state it's a good idea to do your homework. Start by generating a list of current needs, needs that could crop up in the future, and long term goals for your family as a whole as well as your disabled child. Once those are identified jot a list of all the services and programs that you'll need to look for to meet those needs. From there you can generate a list of questions.

Here are a few questions you may want to consider.

- Write a list of all the goods and services your child currently needs and may have in the near future.
- Will you have family or other supports available to help in your new location?
- Is family available and willing to help? Are we leaving family behind?
- Can you get by on one income if you are on a wait list for state programs and one of you needs to stay at home?
- Are there enough state programs to meet your child's needs or will you need two incomes?
- What kind of neighborhood environment do you want to be in? Rural? Suburban? Downtown?
- Draw up a budget from your current income and then look to see where changes could be made. Will these changes improve if you move?
- What kind of housing will you need now? In the future? What does the housing market look like in areas you are considering versus where you are now?
- How close to schools/services will you be? Will you need to relocate nearer to these facilities or can you easily drive in when needed?
- What kind of family recreation do you enjoy and can you easily access those places?
- What about shopping?
- Is there public transportation available or would you have to drive? Do you want to?
- How long will your children be on the school bus? Will they be able to attend the same schools?

One last thing I recommend is a fact finding trip to the area under consideration if at all possible. Take a family vacation and visit the various cities you are considering. Not only can you have fun discovering a new area but seeing new possibilities first hand takes away a lot of the guess work.

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