

# Educational support for children

Moving internationally or to another part of the country with children of school age means that parents need to find appropriate schools. This can be particularly stressful if parents do not know the new location, which schools are best for their children, and/or they are trying to move during an academic year.

## **THE NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT**

Parents always place their children's education as top priority. They never want to jeopardise it or their children's career prospects. So this aspect of family support is critical to facilitate global mobility as well as domestic relocation.

## **EARLY YEARS' EDUCATION**

When children are of pre-school age, parents often feel more confident of moving. Nonetheless, support that provides information on childcare options and/or nursery places is extremely valuable.

Nursery provision provides excellent social support and developmental opportunities for young children. Specialist providers can advise on nursery provision and assist in securing places for youngsters.

## **SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN**

Children must be educated in surroundings where they feel safe, secure and motivated. Building friendships and learning about their new culture is critical.

Primary education sets expectations

for children going forward and builds the sense of joy in learning.

As children progress into secondary education, so the educational choices become increasingly important. This is especially so at critical school years when preparation for examinations that will determine future education and career options take place.

## **FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL**

Help can be on hand from schools themselves. For example, international schools can support and advise parents directly. The admissions department provides information on what the school offers and how it will help new students to settle in. They also typically offer tours/inductions so that families can gain a sense of the school's ethos.

School search/education consultants can meet the family, assess children's needs and can help match them to schooling options.

Relocating part way through a school year can be particularly problematic when it comes to securing a place. Education consultants are experienced in dealing with schools to navigate through this potential hurdle.

## **CURRICULUM DIFFERENCES**

Identifying suitable schools that follow a similar or appropriate curriculum presents an additional complication for those moving abroad. Education consultants can be particularly valuable in identifying schools that offer the closest match to the children's' previous courses.

## **INDIVIDUAL & SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Every child is different and some may have special educational needs. Again, the admissions departments of the schools or educational consultants can help to



identify how individual requirements can best be matched to the educational provision on offer.

## **PERSONAL TUTORING**

Personal tutoring may also be an option for some students, for example to bridge a gap between the relocation and the school place being available and/or help children align their previous education with what is offered in the new location.

## **TRANSITION**

Moving to a new country potentially means learning a new language and certainly adapting to a new culture. Educational cultures are different too. Transition support to assist children in adapting to a new location and school environment is extremely valuable to ensure that they settle in and are happy.

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