

© Writing in the Real World

The author of "Moving Is Tough for Kids" uses cause and effect to make her argument clearer and more persuasive.

Before you read, answer these questions: What might make moving tough for kids? What might be easy for them?

Now read the article. Think about your answers to the questions as you read.

NANCY DARLING

MOVING IS TOUGH FOR KIDS

1 **The bad news.** The *New York Times* recently **summarized** new research on how kids are affected by moving. The study, published in the *Journal of Social and Personality Psychology*, carefully **documents** the fact that frequent moves are tough on kids and disrupt¹ important friendships. The study reports that these effects are most problematic² for kids who are introverted³ and whose personalities tend toward anxiety and inflexibility. The study also goes on to say that adults who moved frequently as kids have fewer high-quality relationships and tend to score lower on well-being and life satisfaction.

2 **The not-so-bad news.** The reports warns, however, that these findings should be treated with caution because often families that move a lot may be doing so because of already existing problems, such as a divorce or a job loss. In addition, the moves may be taking place during a time when children are already making difficult transitions. They may be going through puberty⁴ or moving from primary education to secondary school, which can be a particularly difficult period. So the difficult **behaviors exhibited** by kids (and adults) who move may be **greatly enhanced** by factors that are not directly related to moving.

¹disrupt: prevent something from continuing as usual

²problematic: causing difficulty, or hard to deal with

³introverted: shy, quiet, and unable to make friends easily

⁴puberty: the stage of life when a child develops physically into an adult



3 **A touchy subject.**⁵ The subject of moving is a touchy one for my family. We know a lot about it because during the first 25 years of my marriage, we moved 10 times. Yes, that's right, 10 times! My oldest son moved five times before college (a very touchy subject) and my youngest has moved three. We were always the ones who moved. I don't remember my kids ever being the ones left behind. Now, however, things have changed. I have become tenured,⁶ and we are the ones who are staying. It was my son's best friend who moved away.

⁵a touchy subject: a subject that must be dealt with carefully

⁶become tenured: receive a job for life, usually as a teacher or university professor