

My house is either too hot or too cold. But, I don't usually like asking others for help. Moving is the easiest thing for me to do, but I am concerned about my three children having to change schools. What else could I do?

You could try to solve the problem yourself.

One way to solve problems is using this simple five-step process.

1. What's the problem?
2. What part of the problem can you do something about?
3. List some things you could do to solve the problem.
4. Pick out the best one and try it.
5. Did it work? If not, try something else.

For example, you have a door that lets in too much cold in the winter.

The problem is the house gets so cold and the floor is cold for the baby. Some solutions may be:

- call the landlord
- talk to your worker
- call the Residential Tenancies Branch

You may have to ask many people questions before you get the right answers for your family.

Your children will thank you when they get to stay in their same school.

Here is a list of some people you may wish to contact:

- Residential Tenancies Branch (landlord and tenant matters) 945-2476
- Your local community resource centre
- Local Self Help Organization
- Your worker
- Community police office
- Your local church
- Your local school
- Community Financial Counselling Services: 989-1900
- Legal Aid: 985-8500

For their future...

If you must move, please consider staying close to your child's school.

Moving is risky business for kids!

Frequent moving can hurt your children's education, their self-esteem and chances of success.



For their future, consider letting them stay in the same school for at least one full year.



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As a parent/guardian, you want what is best for them.

One thing that you can do for your children to help them do well in school and in life is to let them stay in one school for at least one year.

Children who move often find it hard to do well in school. They are more likely to get lower grades and develop low self-esteem and even drop out of school.



Parents ask...

My daughter is only in Grade 1, will moving just two or three times cause her any problems?

Moving any child, regardless of grade can cause problems. Younger and older children need to feel a sense of belonging. They may lose that when they move from school to school.

School work can vary in the same grade at another school, so your child may be behind the other students.

My sons both have special needs. Would moving be harder on them than other kids?

Yes. You may wish to try to keep the boys in the same school for at least one school year. Children with special needs are very much at risk when moved from school to school. They do the best when they stay in the same school with the same teachers and friends.



My daughter is very happy in the school she is in, but the house is very cold in the winter and I would like to move so that my children are kept warm. What else can I do?

You have several options. You could talk to your landlord about the heat. If that doesn't work, then call the Landlord and Tenants Association, or if you are on social assistance, talk to your worker.

Talk to your principal or child's teacher and let him or her know about the problem.

Tell each person you talk to that you want to keep your daughter in her same school.

If you must move, try to find a new home close to your daughter's school, so she can stay in the same school.