

FEELINGS MOVE ME

**A Short Story To Help Children Cope With Moving
Written by Garret Plunkett**

NEW HOME

It was Bryson's favorite time of year, just before Christmas, when his mom and dad loaded his family into the car and backed out of the driveway. Bryson was told a surprise was in store for him and boy did Bryson love surprises! A few minutes later, the car stopped. The family unloaded from the car to view an empty lot.

"What in the world?" Bryson said.

His parents replied,

"LOOK HERE, BRYSON...

- IT'S THE SITE OF OUR NEW HOME."



HUH?

Quite disappointed the surprise was not a tasty treat or a new toy, Bryson quickly became very confused.

"But we have a home?" Bryson said.

"YOU'RE RIGHT WE DO, HOWEVER, THIS NEW HOME WILL BE FOR OUR GROWING FAMILY", HIS PARENTS EXPLAINED.





Bryson, who was 4 at the time, asked,
"Will I get my very own room?"

"ABSOLUTELY!" HIS PARENTS REPLIED. "AS
WILL YOUR YOUNGER SISTER AND
BROTHER."

Bryson's blank stare turned into a huge smile.
"That makes me so happy."

"WE ARE EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO BE
ABLE TO BUILD OUR NEW HOME AND WE
ARE SO HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO SHARE IT
WITH YOU", SAID HIS PARENTS.

As the winter turned to spring, Bryson and his family drove to the homesite for weekly check-ins.





FIRST, THE SITE WAS EXCAVATED, THE FOUNDATION WAS POURED, FRAMING TOOK PLACE AND BEFORE BRYSON KNEW IT, HOME CONSTRUCTION WAS NEARLY COMPLETE! IT WAS ALMOST TIME FOR THE BIG MOVE!



TIME TO PACK!

"IT'S TIME TO BEGIN PREPARING FOR THE BIG MOVE, BRYSON. WE NEED TO PACK ALL YOUR THINGS."

THIS MEANS WE NEED TO PUT ALL YOUR TOYS, BOOKS AND CLOTHES INTO BOXES IN ORDER TO SAFELY TRANSPORT THEM TO OUR NEW HOME!

Wow, was this an overwhelming thought for Bryson.

"How are we to get ALL my things into boxes?"

LETTING GO

"WELL MAYBE NOT ALL YOUR THINGS. THIS IS ALSO A GREAT TIME TO LET GO OF SOME ITEMS", HIS PARENTS EXPLAINED.

"LET GO?" BRYSON GOT SCARED.

"DON'T WORRY, BRYSON, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. LETTING GO IS A HEALTHY HABIT OF DONATING GENTLY USED ITEMS YOU NO LONGER NEED FOR OTHER KIDS TO ENJOY! WE WON'T GET RID OF ANY OF YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS!"

Bryson was still nervous about the process. What if he had to make a difficult choice?



SHELF BY SHELF, AND DRAWER BY DRAWER, BRYSON WENT THROUGH HIS
PERSONAL ITEMS AND ASKED QUESTIONS LIKE,

Do I
LOVE
this?

Do I
VALUE
this?

Do I
USE
this?

HE WAS MAKING STEADY PROGRESS, PLACING HIS FAVORITE ITEMS IN A SPECIALLY
MARKED BOX, WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED HIS PRIZED MONSTER TRUCK.

*"This was my favorite truck, Daddy. I remember when we got it at the monster truck show.
And the numerous times I broke it on the playground, and every time you fixed it for me!"*

"What great memories", Bryson's daddy replied. "However, son, you haven't played with the truck recently and you have other toys now."

BRYSON WAS STUCK.

He didn't know what to do. Finally, Bryson hoped it would bring joy to another kid just as much as it did to him and decided to let it go!

MOVING DAY!

The big day arrived - moving day! Bryson was so excited when a big truck pulled up out front. People were there to help them move their belongings. They were called 'movers'.



The movers greeted him with a smile and a high five. Bryson watched as the movers went through the house clearing it out room by room.

*"Wow! These people are so strong,"
Bryson said.*

Before long, the house was empty and Bryson's excitement turned to tears.

"WHAT'S THE MATTER?"
HIS PARENTS ASKED.



"I'm sad, I don't want to leave."

"We're sad too, Bryson, we have a LOT of wonderful memories in this home. AFTER ALL, THIS IS WHERE YOU, YOUR SISTER and your BROTHER were BORN; and THIS was Frankie's FIRST HOME TOO!"





Speaking of Frankie, the family dog,
"Where is he?" Bryson asked.

"He's BEEN WAITING IN THE
BACKYARD; LET'S LOAD HIM
UP AND HEAD TO THE NEW
HOUSE, SHALL WE?"

The family held a moment of gratitude for the house they called home for so many years before leaving one last time.





A FEW MINUTES LATER THEY ARRIVED AT THEIR NEW HOME JUST IN TIME TO MEET THE MOVERS. THE TRUCK WAS QUICKLY UNLOADED AND ALL THE BELONGINGS WERE PLACED NEATLY INSIDE THE NEW FAMILY HOME.

BRYSON'S SMILE RETURNED AS HIS FURNITURE MADE ITS WAY TO HIS OWN, NEW ROOM!

UNPACKING

He quickly unpacked the specially marked box revealing his favorite book, cars, hat, ball and stuffy.

"WHAT a roller coaster OF emotions today was," HIS PARENTS STATED.

"What do you mean?" Bryson asked.

"WELL, THINK ABOUT ALL THE FEELINGS you experienced THROUGHOUT our move."





HAPPY



EMPATHY



SCARED

WHAT FEELINGS?



SAD



CONFUSION



GRATITUDE



AWE



FATIGUE

THE END!