

## **Traveling with little ones: is that insane?**

My husband just started his two year nursing degree and has plans to become a travel nurse just as soon as he has his experience. We were also planning to coordinate the birth of our first child around the time that he takes his first assignment. ARE WE NUTS OR IS THIS POSSIBLE?

The only way I would consider traveling with a toddler is if I had a consistent caregiver that traveled with me to provide care for my little one while I was at work. In this situation, I believe one could travel successfully with good nationwide health coverage and transitioning techniques used to make the kids feel more comfortable in their new surroundings. Before leaving I would research local hospitals and child resources.

Traveling can be disrupting, especially for those who didn't make the choice to move in the first place, such as children. For most, moving also tends to be more difficult as friends play a more major role in their life, i.e., the older they get. Besides the age factor, one must take into account the personality and temperament of your child. These characteristics are not going to change much throughout their lives. Some personalities and temperament are more inherently adaptable than others. You know your child.

Sounds like you will be the consistent caregiver. Now, may be the best time for you to travel while your kids aren't in school and you are their primary entertainment. I would suggest a few of the following tips.

### **Assure your family healthcare coverage**

Make sure you have good healthcare coverage that starts your first day of your assignment. Some programs start 30 days after your assignment and some start on the first day. You may want to extend your husband's current insurance by going on a COBRA plan. The travel companies will often reimburse you for insurance expenses up to a certain amount if you wish to carry your own insurance.

### **Consider extending your assignment**

It may be possible for your husband to extend his assignment at the end of 3 months, if he likes it and the hospital continues to have a need for a traveler. This way, you wouldn't have to transition so often if you aren't ready.

### **Research the area and get housing close to work**

You want to make sure to ask questions about the area they will be placing you in and research on the computer about the area. Also, see if they can give you an assignment where the housing is located within walking distance from the hospital. This way, your husband could walk to work and you could have use of the car during the day for errands etc.

### **Make sure your company knows you are traveling as a family**

Finally, make sure to tell your travel agency that you are traveling as a family so they can make accommodations that will be more comfortable for you. You may even request a 2 bedroom apartment. There may be a little bit of a charge for the extra room, but it may not be much and may be well worth it.