

## **TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN**

Can nurses travel with children? Yes, and children can travel with you. How does this work? Many travelers get creative when overcoming obstacles to traveling. Let's take a look at a few of your options.

### **Traveling in the summer**

Traveling is often thought of as a full time occupation. However, traveling is whatever you make it. Remember you always have the option of traveling part-time. Part-time travel gives you and your family something to look forward to while maintaining stability. My husband and I plan on traveling in the summers when my daughter turns two years old.

Having the summers to look forward to will make our daily work routines more bearable. Furthermore, my husband will have a chance to write and be creative in the summers. We see traveling as a way to balance our life. Getting out of balance is so easy. Before long, you realize you haven't been on vacation in years and you work way too many hours. Life is too short not to see the country and do things you want to do. Not only is traveling fun, but think about how educational traveling can be for a child.

### **Home schooling**

Speaking of education.....some travelers are bold enough to home school their children while traveling. I admire anyone with the dedication to home school. I know a male traveler, David, who travels with his wife and 3 children. He says that traveling allows him to make more money so his wife can home school the children and work on her Doctorate. David and his wife recommend The Sycamore Tree Center for Home Education.

### **Assignment Extending**

If you don't want to travel part-time and you don't want to home school, you can take long assignments. Some hospitals are thrilled if you are willing to commit for 6 months rather than 3 months. Mary, an energetic mom I met while traveling, makes sure she asks to work at hospitals that have a reputation for ongoing needs. This way she can continue to extend for awhile (at least for the school year). At some point, the hospital may ask you to become a permanent employee in order to stay. If you travel to a fairly large city, your agency may be able to find you another assignment at a neighboring hospital in the same area. On the other hand, you could take an assignment somewhere else for the summer and return as a traveler again at the same hospital. As long as you leave the hospital for awhile, they can justify hiring you back as a traveler again. Of course, you always have the option of moving on to a new town or state.

Traveling has so many options. You can create whatever scenario works for you. However, let me note that you must consider what works for your child. Each child has a unique temperament. Traveling works better for some people than others.