

How do you prepare the children?

First and foremost, the nanny and the parents need to discuss who will tell the children, when they will be told and whether or not the nanny will be present. They should also discuss what they will tell the children so that they present a unified front.

Here are ways that you can prepare the children that will also help you prepare yourself.

1. Educate children from the day you begin caring for them, so that they understand that you will always love them and they will always be in your heart, but you will not always be there on a daily basis.
2. It is important that they understand that you are there to do a job and when you leave, it is not because of anything that they did wrong.
3. Make sure that if you are still going to be able to see them, that they know that.
4. If you will still be having visits with them, it is a good idea to set up a future visit and mark it on the calendar so they understand that they will see you again.
5. If you are moving away, leave them your picture, your new phone number, your email address and a way to get in touch with you.
6. Make a picture album together
7. Transition and make friends with the new nanny if at all possible.
8. Speak positively about the new nanny.
You can say things like "You and ----- are going to have so much fun together. Did you know that she can"
If you accept the new nanny, it gives your charge permission to accept them too.
9. Never promise to stay forever
10. When they are old enough to understand, talk about past charges...Like, "When I was Ellie's Nanny we used to go to this park too" .
If your current charges see you keeping in touch with your past charges you can use that to teach them that at some point you will be needed to help another family just as you moved on to help them.
11. Point out when their friends change nannies.
12. Remind them that they will always have their parents to care for them.
13. Speak in a positive way about the good things that are to come.
14. If there are special traditions they want to carry on, try to do that for them.
15. Make an extra effort to remember their birthdays and Holidays especially in the beginning.

Remember that you are the adult in this situation and always take the high road.

