

Top 10 Mistakes in making Arrangements for the Children

1. It is not about being the “winner”, it is about the children. Focusing on what you want and not considering what is in the child’s best interest is a mistake.
2. Using the children as messengers or having them chose sides.
3. Not making age appropriate arrangements
4. Not considering the practical implementation of these arrangements
5. For some families orders or parenting plans need to be detailed to avoid conflict, however, with other families being too prescriptive about the arrangements can lead to conflict.
6. Your situation is unique, arrangements that friends and families have for their children are unlikely to suit your family 100%
7. Letting a judge decide the arrangements for your children should be the last resort.
8. Requesting changes to arrangements at the last minute... for example if you wish to change a weekend for a special occasion speak to the other parent well in advance, be prepared to compromise
9. Just deciding every day arrangements only. When deciding your arrangements give thought about how holidays and special occasions will be shared, how decisions will be made and how you will communicate with each other.
10. Not being open to change as your children get older... what is best for them at 1 year old is different to when they are 6 years old, when they are 11 years old and when they are 16 years old.

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