

Resources for Children, Teachers, and Families Affected by Military Deployment

Many early childhood classrooms in the United States serve children who have one or both parents away from home on active military duty for extended periods of time. Teachers and schools play a vital role in supporting children and families during a military deployment. Educators can help through classroom activities and experiences, ongoing communication with parents (at home and abroad), and schoolwide activities. Below are examples of children's books and other resources related to deployment, compiled with assistance from the Office of Children and Youth, Military Community and Family Policy and the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Command Child and Youth Services.

Children's Books

Daddy, You're My Hero! and **Mommy, You're My Hero!** by M. Ferguson-Cohen. 2002. Brooklyn, NY: Little Redhaired Girl Publishing.

I Miss You Every Day, by S. Taback. 2007. New York: Viking Juvenile.

The Kissing Hand, by A. Penn. Illus. by R.E. Harper & N.M. Leak. 2006. Terre Haute, IN: Tanglewood Press.

Love, Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom, by L.T. McElroy. Illus. by D. Paterson. 2005. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman.

The Magic Box: When Parents Can't Be There To Tuck You In, by M. Sederman & S. Epstein. Illus. by K. Stormer Brooks. 2002. Washington, DC: Magination Press.

My Big Brother, by M. Cohen. Illus. by R. Himler. 2005. New York: Star Bright Books.

My Daddy Is a Soldier, by K. Hilbrecht & S. Hilbrecht. 2000. New Canaan, CT: New Canaan Publishing.

My Red Balloon, by E. Bunting. Illus. by K. Life. 2005. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mill Press.

Night Catch, by B. Ehrmantraut. Illus. by V. Wehrman. 2005. Lansing, MI: Bubble Gum Press.

Red, White, and Blue Goodbye, by S.W. Tomp. Illus. by A. Barrow. 2005. New York: Walker Books for Young Readers.

Uncle Sam's Kids: When Duty Calls, by A. Sportelli-Rehak. Illus. by G. Hinkley. 2004. Island Heights, NJ: Abidenme Books.

We Serve Too! A Child's Deployment Book, by Kathleen Edlick. Wee the People Publishing, Eaton, CO. www.weservetoo.us

When Dad's at Sea, by M. Pelton. Illus. by R.G. Steele. 2004. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman.

While You Are Away, by E. Spinelli. Illus. by R. Graef. 2004. New York: Hyperion.

A Year without Dad, by J. Brunson. Illus. by Cramer. 2003. Dryden, NY: Ithaca Press.

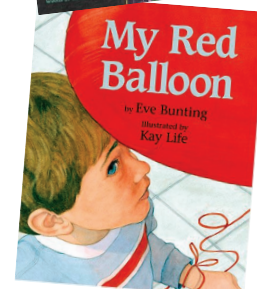
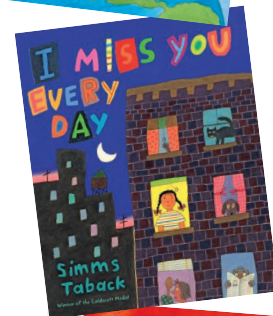
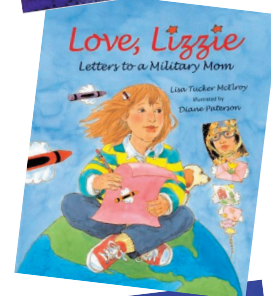
A Yellow Ribbon for Daddy, by A. Mersiowsky. Illus. R. Contreras. 2005. Phoenix, AZ: Veritas Media.

You Go Away, by D. Corey. Illus. by D. Paterson. 1999. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman.

Resources for Adults

Building Resilient Kids—This free distance-learning course contains three modules on deployment, including issues surrounding separation during war and coping with the disability and/or loss of a parent. www.jhsph.edu/mci

Channing Bete Company—Deployment resources are available on this site for parents and teachers. <http://store.channing-bete.com/onlinestore/search.html>



Coming Together Around Military Families (CTAMF)—A three-year initiative of ZERO TO THREE, providing information and free resources. www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_military

Deploymentkids.com—This site offers downloadable activities, including a time-zone chart, distance calculator, and spotlights on different areas of the world where a parent might be deployed. www.deploymentkids.com

Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment—The guide offers specific and practical guidelines for administrators, counselors, teachers, and other school employees. www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/homefront/homefront.pdf

Guide for Helping Children and Youth Cope with Separation—The guide gives information for parents, teachers, caregivers, and other adults who can help children ages 7 to 18 cope with separation from a parent due to military deployment. www.zerotothree.org

Helping Children Cope During Deployment—Geared to the military audience, this fact sheet provides tips and information on how to help children cope during deployment. www.usuhs.mil/psy/CTChildrenCopeDuringDeployment.pdf

Little Listeners in an Uncertain World: Coping Strategies for You and Your Child during Deployment or When a Crisis Occurs—Brochure is filled with tips of what to do to help a child cope with difficult times. www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/handout.pdf?docID=2381&AddInterest=1142

Military Child Education Coalition—Information and resources on how to assist children during the deployment. www.militarychild.org (click on Deployment/Separation tab at top of page)

Military Family Books—Books and deployment kits for children and adults. www.militaryfamilybooks.com

Military Onesource—Resources for military families on preparing and dealing with deployment. www.militaryonesource.com

Mr. Poe and Friends Initiative—The initiative supports children and families of deployed service members. The Mr. Poe toolkit includes a 30-minute animated DVD, a welcome letter to adults explaining how to use the DVD, a facilitators guide, and handouts. www.aap.org/sections/unifserv/deployment/ysp-resources.htm

National Military Families Association—Includes information on what to expect regarding communicating with the service member during the deployment, who to go to for information or assistance, and what support services are available. www.nmfa.org (Choose Deployment and You)

Operation Healthy Reunions—This program from Mental Health America distributes educational materials on such topics as reuniting with your spouse and children, adjusting after war, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). www.mentalhealthamerica.net/reunions. (The article, "Reconnecting With Your Children," appears at www.nmha.org/reunions/infoChildren.cfm.)

Sesame Street Talk, Listen, Connect kits—Sesame Workshop and Wal-Mart stores partnered to create resources for military families coping with concerns experienced during deployment. Phase II will come out this spring with free bilingual kits designed to help children of injured veterans and other returning service members to adjust to the changes in their parents. www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/index.php

Single Parenting While Your Partner Is Deployed—Brief materials for family members explain an issue, offer suggestions on how to talk to the child about the issue, and describe how to get further help through Military Onesource and/or other organizations. www.militaryonesource.com

Supporting the Child Whose Military Parent Is Deploying: Tips for Parents—Geared specifically to the military audience, this paper presents 10 tips to assist parents to help their children navigate the ups and downs of the deployment cycle. www.cfs.purdue.edu/mfri/pages/military/Supporting_Children_of_Deployed_Parents.pdf

Troop and Family Counseling Services for National Guard and Reserves—Offers 24-hour access to free counseling to help families through issues resulting from deployment. Call toll-free 888-755-9355.



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