

Children and Youth Resources

Operation Military Kids (OMK)

OMK is a collaborative initiative by Army Child and Youth Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National 4-H Program, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, The American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), and the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) to provide support and assistance to military youth and their families – in geographically dispersed communities and on installations. POC is Nancy Campbell at nancy.campbell@us.army.mil or (703) 681-4849.

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

MCEC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit, world-wide organization that identifies the challenges that face the highly mobile military child, increases awareness of these challenges in military and educational communities and initiates and implements programs to meet the challenges. MCEC's goal is to level the educational playing field for military children wherever they are located around the world and serve as a model for all highly mobile children. POC is Linda Neault at linda.neault@militarychild.org (254) 953-1923.

Living in the New Normal Training (LINN) was designed support military families who have either lost a loved one or are coping with a life changing injury. The MCEC launched the "Living in the New Normal" initiative to give families and communities the tools they need to cope with the changes and challenges. By drawing on the expertise of approximately 100 representatives from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds including the military, business, community leadership, healthcare, education, faith-based institutions and services providers, MCEC laid the ground work for instituting community based plans that will support the needs of military families – especially the children who have experienced injury or the loss of life of a family member. POC is Keith Martin at keith.martin@militarychild.org or (254) 953-1923.

ZERO TO THREE – Offers a comprehensive interactive resource for parents and early childhood education professionals on healthy development of children ages zero to three. It is a national non-profit multidisciplinary organization that advances their mission by informing, educating and supporting adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers. **Coming Together Around Military Families (CTAMF)** Initiative increases awareness of the impact of trauma, grief and loss on very young children, through specialized training and support, for the professionals who are supporting military families in and around military installations with high deployment rates. Of primary focus are the special circumstances of those families that experience trauma and loss as a result of a Service member's deployment. ZERO TO THREE provides training for families, children, youth, service providers, educators, counselors and others. POC is Julia Yeary at jyeary@zerotothree.org or (202) 489-3756.

Children and Youth Resources

Operation Military Child Care (OMCC) is a child care initiative offered by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) to provide child care fee assistance for deployed, Active-Duty Military (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force) whose children are enrolled in non-DoD-licensed child care programs. POC is NACCRRA at 1-800-793-0324 (Military Programs) **or** 1-800-424-2246 (Child Care Aware).

New Sesame Street DVD Kit: Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes: Since the August, 2006 release of the original Sesame Street DVD kit, *Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families During Military Deployment*, Military OneSource has distributed over 340,000 of the highly acclaimed kits to military families all over the world. Like the original, the new bilingual multimedia outreach kit is designed to support military families with children between the ages of 2 and 5 as they cope with the feelings, challenges, and concerns experienced during different phases of deployment. Each kit includes a copy of the original DVD and new additional video and parent/caregiver materials designed to help children of injured veterans and other returning service members adjust to the changes in their parents. To order call Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647 or visit the website at www.militaryonesource.com

For School-Age Children: Mr. Poe and Friends Discuss Family Reunion After Deployment: This video program, developed by military pediatricians, is designed to help school-age children understand that they are not alone as they experience family separation. The animated host, Mr. Poe, provides guidance to children and family members as they discuss the challenges and accomplishments during the stages of deployment. The kit also includes a facilitator's guide and resource materials for families and organizations working to support military children during deployment. To order call Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647 or visit the website at www.militaryonesource.com

For Youth and Teens: Military Youth Coping with Separation: When Family Members Deploy: This video program, developed by military pediatricians and adolescent-medicine specialists, helps older children and adolescents learn about coping strategies for dealing with feelings and emotions during deployment challenges. Narrated by a military teen who has experienced family deployment, the video shows candid interviews with military youths describing their own experiences. The kit also includes a facilitator's guide and a military youth stress management plan. For more information about the DVDs visit <http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/news.aspx?fid=396>. Both videos are available for online viewing on the American Academy of Pediatrics Deployment Support Web site at www.aap.org/sections/unifserv/deployment/index.htm. They are also available for ordering, in DVD format, through Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647 or <http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>.