



School Scuttle

Educational issues affecting military kids
Camp Lejeune - New River - Cherry Point

DECEMBER 2009

This Month's Theme is:

DEPLOYMENT

Our children silently watch us on a daily basis and start to develop their values and beliefs by what we as parents model. While a parent is deployed a child can learn an amazing lesson on responsibility, taking a stand on what is important, and the importance of freedom by watching their parent leave to do an important job. While the parent is away they can still model importance of education.

Pre-Deployment:

1. Set educational goals with the student before leaving. This can be talking to a Kindergartener about learning to read while the parent is away, or a middle school child about the grades they are going to strive for on their report card and the steps they are going to take to reach the goals. With a high school student this can be talking about classes they are going to register for. The conversation is dependent on the student and parent, but the goals need to be realistic and reachable.
2. Let the teachers/counselor at the school know when a parent is deployed. This is not information that needs to be shared with a lot of people, but those that are in a position of providing a support system for the student need to know. Keeping an open line of communication with the school allows the child to see that educators and school are important.

Deployment:

1. Have the child send copies of progress reports, report cards, and work samples to the deployed parent.
2. Have the deployed parents email account listed for teacher communication.
3. If possible, the deployed parent can check school websites to find out about recent events to talk to the student about.
4. The older student and the deployed parent can read the same book, and have a conversation about the story.
5. When emailing or talking to the child the deployed parent can ask specific school related questions that do not require yes or no questions. What book are you reading? What is your favorite subject? Who do you sit next to at lunch?

Post-Deployment:

1. Set time aside to look through school work that was done when the parent was gone.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.militarychild.org/military-parent/deployment-separation/>



From the Bulletin Board...



ASK AN EXPERT

Q: What can I do as the “single” parent when my spouse is deployed to help my children make the most of school?

A: There are a couple of proven techniques to help your children be successful despite the change in the household. When children are doing well at home, they are much more likely to do well in school.

1. **Consistent discipline.** Children may balk at rules and consequences, but a firm and fair approach actually makes children feel safer. They need to know that an adult is in control and can take care of them. While they may wish they were the boss of the family, they really do not want and can not handle that responsibility. Making sure your child understands that you care enough about them to keep them safe and secure with boundaries and limits will help your child’s emotional well being.
2. **Positive attitude!** “Bestow” rather than “dump” chores on children. Talk about the pride of new responsibilities. Have a can-do attitude. Even if you don’t feel so secure in your abilities, try portraying that confidence to your children and see how they respond. Their positive reaction will feed your need for a calm and controlled home. The positive attitude at home will feed over into school!

For more tips on helping your children through deployment, check out:

http://www.cfs.purdue.edu/MFRI/pages/military/Supporting_Children_of_Deployed_Parents.pdf

WEB RESOURCES OF THE MONTH

Active duty parents can send special dogtags to their children.

<http://www.dogtagsforkids.com/>

A website that allows the deployed parent to interact online with their child, especially for reading.

<http://www.mychildmymilitary.com/>

Activities, downloads, and journals for children of deployment service members

<http://www.deploymentkids.com/>



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

What is Procedural Due Process?

Due process, as it applies to special education, includes the legal procedures and requirements developed to protect the rights of children, parents, and school districts. For children suspected of having a disability, due process guarantees a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive educational setting. For parents, due process protects their rights to have input into the educational program and placement of their child, and to have options in cases of disagreement with the recommendations of the school district. For school districts, due process offers recourse in cases of parent resistance with a request for evaluation, challenges to an independent evaluation sought by parents at public expense, or unwillingness of parents to consent to the Eligibility Committee recommendation.

The components of due process include procedural safeguards such as: Appropriate written notice, written consent from parents, confidentiality of records, surrogate parents, impartial hearings, and appeals to the Commissioner of Education.

For more information about Due Process visit:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/ec/policy/resources/2008/ecparenthandbook0409.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
12-7	SOAR Training 1400-1500	MCAS, Cherry Point
12-8	School Volunteer Training 1530-1630	MCAS, Cherry Point
12-9	Positive Change of Schools Training for Parents 1830-2000	Russell Family Service Center, MCB, Camp Lejeune
1-29	LINKS for Kids (6-12) 449-4676 1700-2030 February 19 5-9 @ NR 449-4676	MCAS, New River
2-19	LINKS for Teens (13 and up)	MCAS, New River Air Station



COUNSELOR'S CORNER: ROUTINES

As the spouse of a deployed Marine I realize how important it is to get into a routine. As adults every day routines may seem monotonous and boring. They can also make the days manageable, especially for children. Kids thrive in a consistent environment and knowing what is coming next in the day or the week. This gives them a feeling of control and security. The feeling of control and security is extremely important for our children who are in the midst of a deployment cycle.

Every family needs to set their own routines, but please remember research shows that regular homework time, family dinners at least three times per week, and an appropriate daily bed time are three parts of a routine that help a child succeed in school.



CONTACT US: We'd love to hear from you!

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