Sesame Workshop Collaborations

Family Policy/Children and Youth

# Background

Sesame Workshop's “Talk, Listen, Connect” initiative, a military outreach program, provides support and significant resources for military families with young children experiencing the effects of deployment, multiple deployments or grief due to loss of a parent from an illness, injury or suicide.

# Program highlights

* **Sesame Street’s “Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes”** is a bilingual multimedia outreach program designed to support military families with children between the ages of 2 and 5 as they cope with the feelings and concerns experienced during different phases of deployment. The kit comes with the DVD and additional parent/caregiver materials.
* **Sesame Street’s “When Families Grieve”** is a bilingual DVD resource kit, which includes a DVD, children’s storybook and a guide for parents and caregivers to help support children coping with the death of a parent, while also providing reassurance that they can learn ways of being there for each other and move forward.
* **Sesame Street’s “Little Children, Big Changes: Divorce”** provides multimedia outreach resources that leverage the power of the beloved Sesame Street Muppets to provide families and young children ages 2 to 8 with critically needed resources to help reassure them they will be cared for and, together with their families, they can learn ways to cope with the stress and changes associated with divorce or separation.
* **Sesame Street’s “Little Children, Big Challenges: Resilience”** is designed to introduce the skills and strategies young children need to build resilience and persevere through day-to-day challenges, such as beating the bedtime blues, trying new things and making new friends. The soft-cover book and DVD address significant transitions and situations, such as mean or aggressive behavior, sibling rivalry and relocation. The bilingual family guide includes a Sesame Street DVD featuring Muppet stories and music videos and a family guide with tips and strategies.
* **Military Families Near and Far** is a no-cost, bilingual website where families can create, communicate and stay connected. Developed for military families, the site provides new ways for preschool and school-aged children to express themselves and communicate within their own family networks. Families can add characters from Sesame Street and The Electric Company to their networks to get messages from these special friends. New interactive tools for creating art, music, videos, letters, cards and notebooks help kids explore their emotions and encourage communication.

# Eligibility

All active-duty members, Department of Defense civilians, National Guard and reserves, and their families are eligible.

# Program availability

* The video series is available online and can be downloaded by visiting <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc> or <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>.
* The no-cost multimedia kits are available for home delivery and can be ordered by visiting <http://www.militaryonesource.mil> or calling toll-free 800-342-9647.

# Additional information

* Sesame Workshop: <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc>
* Military OneSource Parenting: <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/cyt>