Sesame Workshop CollaborationsFamily 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 that they will be cared for, and that, together with their families, they can learn ways to cope with the stress and changes associated with divorce/separation and have hope for the future.
* **Military Families Near and Far** is a no-cost, bilingual (English and Spanish) 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.
* **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 bi-lingual family guide includes a Sesame Street DVD featuring Muppet stories and music videos and a family guide with tips and strategies.

# Eligibility

All active-duty members, DoD civilians, National Guard and reserve members, 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 [www.militaryonesource.mil](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 at [www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc](http://www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc)

Military One Source at [www.militaryonesource.mil/cyt](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/cyt)