

Books and Resources for Children about Deployment

Books for children about deployment

For ages 3 to 8

Daddy, You're My Hero and Mommy, You're My Hero, by Michelle Ferguson-Cohen (Little Redhaired Girl Publishing, 2005).

These board books address deployment from a child's viewpoint in a comforting, reassuring way. Recommended by the Military Child Education Coalition, DoD Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, Iraq War Veterans Organization, USAA, and the American Press Institute.

While You Are Away, by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Renee Graef (Hyperion, 2004).

Told in the voices of three children whose parents are deployed: a boy whose father is on a ship at sea, a girl whose mother is a pilot, and a boy whose father drives a jeep. Each child talks about what it's like to miss a parent, and the book ends with the day the parents return home. Gentle and reassuring, with colorful illustrations.

For ages 6 to 12

Deployment Journal for Kids, by Rachel Robertson (Elva Resa Publishing, 2005).

Created especially for military children, this journal provides a place to record feelings and events during a loved one's deployment. It also contains calendar pages, writing ideas, interesting facts about common deployment locations, military definitions, and a pocket in which to keep mementos.

The Soldier's Tree, by Stephanie L. Pickup (TAO Publishing, 2004).

Designed to help military children enjoy the Christmas holidays while they're separated from a loved one. The author, an Army wife, wrote this book after experiencing two deployments through the holidays with young children.

Web resources for children about deployment

Deploymentkids.com

<http://www.deploymentkids.com>

A site sponsored by Elva Resa Publishers, publishers of *My Deployment Journal*. Offers free downloadable activities, including a time-zone chart, distance calculator, and spotlights on different areas of the world where a parent might be deployed.

DeploymentLINK

<http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/>

Click on "K.I.D.S." (Kids Information on Deployment Stuff) for links to games and activities for grades kindergarten and up.

National Guard Youth Online Community

<http://www.guardfamilyyouth.org>

Information and downloadable activities about dealing with the deployment of a Guard parent, intended for children in several age groups. Links to a sub-site for teenagers, the National Guard Family Youth Project, which provides information about handling a deployment in the family when you're a teenager.