

Children's Books on Deployment and Separation

Picture Books

Appelt, Kathi. *Oh My Baby, Little One*. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Harcourt, 2000. ISBN 978-0-1520-0041-7.

A mother explains to her child all the ways her love remains even while she's away.

Ballard, Robin. *My Father is Far Away*. Greenwillow, 1992. ISBN 978-0-6881-0953-0. o.p.

While involved in various daily activities, a child imagines the actions of a much-missed father.

Bunting, Eve. *My Red Balloon*. Illustrated by Kay Life. Boyds Mills, 2005. ISBN 978-1-5907-8263-7.

A young boy waits with both excitement and apprehension for his father to disembark from the aircraft carrier returning to port after many months at sea.

Christiansen, Rebecca. *My Dad's a Hero*. Word Association Publishers, 2007. ISBN 978-1-5957-1209-7.

Focuses on the positive aspects of dad's deployment - what he eats, where he sleeps, what dad is doing for others, how to keep in touch, etc.. There is a place for a photo of the father, and one of the child, too, so this is a book for a family to own, not for a library to buy.

Ehrmantraut, Brenda. *Night Catch*. Illustrated by Vicki Wehrman. Bubble Gum Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0-9729-8339-6.

A soldier deployed overseas enlists the help of the North Star for a nightly game of catch with his young son.

Ferguson-Cohen, Michelle. *Daddy, You're My Hero!* Little Red-Haired Girl Pub., 2003. ISBN 978-0-9729-2644-7. Board book.

Explains in simple language why Daddy is gone and what he is doing while he is away.

Ferguson-Cohen, Michelle. *Mommy, You're My Hero!* Little Red-Haired Girl Pub., 2005. ISBN 978-0-9729-2643-0. Board book.

Explains in simple language why Mommy is gone and what she is doing while she is away.



- Fowler, Susi Gregg. *I'll See You When the Moon is Full*. Illustrated by Jim Fowler. Greenwillow, 1994. ISBN 978-0-6881-0830-4. o.p.
Abe will miss his father when he takes off on a business trip but is reassured of his return in two weeks, when the crescent moon becomes full.
- Hallowell, Kirsten. *Daddy is a Soldier*. Trafford, 2004. ISBN 978-1-4120-1853-1 (pap.).
Parents report that the message of what Daddy does is perfect for their toddlers, but that the book is flimsy and of poor construction.
- Hoff, Syd. *Captain Cat*. HarperCollins, 1994. ISBN 978-0-0644-4176-8 (pap.).
In this easy reader a cat makes friends with a soldier and learns about military life when he joins the army.
- Houston, Gloria. *But No Candy*. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Penguin, 1992. ISBN 978-0-3992-2142-2. o.p.
While her Uncle Ted is off fighting in World War II, Lee watches the candy gradually disappear from the shelves of her family's store and realizes that her entire world has changed.
- Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *Papa Tells Chita a Story*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. S & S, 1995. ISBN 978-0-274-4623-4. o.p.
A young African American girl shares a special time with her father as he tells her about when he was a soldier in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.
- Hoyt, Carmen. *Daddy's in Iraq, But I Want Him Back*. Trafford, 2005. ISBN 978-1-4120-6042-4 (pap.)
Helps validate the feelings of the child at home when his father is deployed.
- Lyon, George Ella. *Cecil's Story*. Illustrated by Peter Catalanotto. Orchard, 1991. ISBN 978-0-5310-5912-8. o.p.
A boy thinks about the possible scenarios that exist for him at home if his father goes off to fight in the Civil War.
- McCormick, Wendy. *Daddy, Will You Miss Me?* Illustrated by Jennifer Eachus. S & S, 1999. ISBN 978-0-6898-1898-1. o.p.
A boy and his daddy come up with lots of different ways to stay close to one another while the daddy is in Africa for four weeks.
- McElroy, Lisa Tucker. *Love, Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom*. Illustrated by Diane Paterson. Whitman, 2005. ISBN 978-0-8075-4777-9.
Nine-year-old Lizzie writes to her mother, who is deployed overseas during wartime, and includes maps that show her mother what Lizzie has been thinking and doing. Includes nonfiction tips for helping children of military families.

Norman, Geoffrey. *Stars Above Us*. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Putnam, 2009. ISBN 978-0-399-24724-8.

A little girl's father helps her get over her fear of the dark before he goes off to war, and she uses the stars they painted on her ceiling to remind her of him while he is away.

Pelton, Mindy. *When Dad's at Sea*. Illustrated by Robert Gantt Steele. Whitman, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8075-6340-3.

Emily, whose father is a Navy pilot, has to deal with the separation of her family while her dad is deployed aboard a ship.

Penn, Audrey. *The Kissing Hand*. Tanglewood, 2006. ISBN 978-1-9337-1800-2.

When Chester the raccoon is reluctant to go to kindergarten for the first time, his mother teaches him a secret way to carry her love with him.

Sederman, Marty & Seymour Epstein. *The Magic Box*. Illustrated by Karen Stormer Brooks. Magination, 2002. ISBN 978-1-5579-8806-5 (pap.).

Casey and his father find a special way to share their love when his father has to go away on business. Includes a note to parents.

Skolmoski, Stephanie. *Paper Hug*. Illustrated by Anneliese Bennion. Design-Ability, 2006. ISBN 978-0-9786-4250-1 (pap.).

When a child's father is called to deploy overseas he makes him a "paper hug" out of construction paper, yarn and tape.

Spinelli, Eileen. *While You Are Away*. Illustrated by Renée Graef. Hyperion, 2008. ISBN 978-1-4231-1351-5 (pap.).

Three children describe how they feel when one of their parents is deployed.

Yolen, Jane. *All Those Secrets of the World*. Illustrated by Leslie Baker. Demco, 1993. ISBN 978-0-6060-5113-2. o.p.

When four-year-old Janie's father goes off to war, the rest of the family moves to the grandparents' on the Chesapeake Bay, where Janie learns a secret of the world which helps her understand her father's long absence.

Zolotow, Charlotte. *If You Listen*. Illustrated by Stefano Vitale. Running Press Kids, 2002. ISBN 978-0-7624-1335-5.

A mother reassures her little girl there is a way to know that someone far away loves you.

Fiction

Antle, Nancy. *Lost in the War*. Puffin, 2000. ISBN 978-0-1413-0836-4 (pap.).

Twelve-year-old Lisa Grey struggles to cope with a mother whose traumatic experiences as a nurse in Vietnam during the war are still haunting her.

Dowell, Frances O’Roark. *Shooting the Moon*. S & S, 2008. ISBN 978-1-4169-2690-0.
When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Lily’s Crossing*. Delacorte, 1997. ISBN 978-0-3853-2142-6 (pap.).
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily’s friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Greenfield, Eloise. *Talk About a Family*. Illustrated by James Calvin. HarperCollins, 1993. ISBN 978-0-0644-0444-0 (pap.).

Genny is eager for her eldest brother’s return from military service, convinced that he can fix everything--even the growing rift between their parents.

Hest, Amy. *Love You, Soldier*. Illustrated by Sonja Lamut. Candlewick, 2000. ISBN 978-0-7636-0943-6.

Katie, a Jewish girl living in New York City during World War II, sees many dynamic changes in her world as she ages from seven to ten waiting for her father to return from the war.

Madison, Alan. *100 Days and 99 Nights*. Little, Brown, 2008. ISBN 978-0-3161-1354-0.

As Esme introduces her stuffed animal collection that is alphabetically arranged from Alvin the aardvark to Zelda the zebra she also relates her family’s military life and her father’s deployment.

Mead, Alice. *Soldier Mom*. FSG, 2009. ISBN 978-0-3744-0029-3 (pap.).

Eleven-year-old Jasmyn gets a different perspective on life when her mother is sent to Saudi Arabia at the beginning of the Persian Gulf War, leaving her and her baby half brother behind in Maine in the care of her Mother’s boyfriend.

Nonfiction

Andrews, Beth. *I Miss You*. Illustrated by Hawley Wright. Prometheus Books, 2007. ISBN 978-1-5910-2534-4 (pap.).

Helps children and their caregivers understand deployment and the feelings surrounding it.

Dads at a Distance: An Activities Handbook for Strengthening Long Distance Relationships. A & E Family Publishers, 2001. ISBN 978-0-9673-5995-3 (pap.).
320 activities to help long distance dads stay in touch with their children.

Ellis, Deborah. *Off to War: Voices of Soldier’s Children*. Greenwood, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8889-9894-1.

Interviews with approximately 40 children, all of whom have at least one parent who is serving, or has served, in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Gartman, Gene. *Life in Army Basic Training*. Children's Press, 2000. ISBN 978-0-5162-3347-5.

Explains life in basic training for the military and provides tips for knowing what to expect and succeeding.

Moms Over Miles: An Activities Handbook for Strengthening Long Distance Relationships. A & E Family Publishers, 2001. ISBN 978-0-9673-5996-0 (pap.).
320 activities to help long distance moms stay in touch with their children.

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