



We are together!

talk, listen, connect™

Family Matters

The whole family can be proud of the selfless, patriotic service your deployed family member is providing. Here are some tips that can help during the time apart.

Talk

- » **Keep all lines of communication open with your child, spouse, and those around you**—before, during, and after deployment. Don't forget to communicate with your child's caregivers and teachers, too.
- » **Make sure your child knows how special and how loved he or she is**—not just by you but also by the parent who's away. Remind your child softly, loudly, and often!

Listen

- » **There are going to be lots of changes. Some may be difficult.** But remind your child that change can also be exciting and can lead to growth and to rich, new experiences.
- » **The deployed parent isn't the only courageous person in the family.** Teach your child that courage does not mean never being scared or sad. Courage means doing what you need to, however you may feel. By getting up each morning and living each day, your child shows courage.

Connect

- » **Your child is not alone. Your family is not alone.** You're part of a larger community. Self-reliance is good, but don't forget to ask family, friends, and neighbors for help when you need it.

Please visit www.sesameworkshop.org/tlc for a printable copy of this poster and for more downloadable material—including the "Talk, Listen, Connect" video. Feel free to share this information with friends and family.

Elmo's dad had to go away for a while. Elmo really misses him. Luckily, he has his mom, his family, and his friends on Sesame Street. Of course, if Elmo's mommy went away, his daddy would take care of him. Everyone helps Elmo feel better and keep busy while his dad is gone. They talk with him and play with him. Elmo is sometimes a little sad, but he is never alone!

Let's Play! The Sesame friends are playing with Elmo.

- » How many toys can you count in the picture? Which toy floats? Which one flies? What toys do you like to play with at home? On another sheet of paper, draw a picture of your family playing together!



Helping Families During Military Deployment

In recognition of the contributions made by The Armed Forces of America—The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves—Sesame Workshop presents "Talk, Listen, Connect," a bilingual educational outreach initiative designed for military families and their young children to share. We are proud to offer support to help military families and their children when service members are deployed.

Produced in partnership with and funded by

WAL★MART®

Additional support provided by



A creation of

sesameworkshop.

The nonprofit educational organization behind Sesame Street and so much more

Photo by Richard Termine.

"Sesame Street," "Sesame Workshop," "Talk, Listen, Connect," and associated characters, trademarks, and design elements are owned by Sesame Workshop. © 2006 Sesame Workshop. All Rights Reserved.