



TM

# Military Child Education Coalition® 2014 Catalog

## **Our Mission:**

To ensure inclusive, quality educational experiences for all military-connected children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition.

# Military Child Education Coalition® 2014 Catalog



909 Mountain Lion Circle  
Harker Heights, Texas 76548  
(254) 953-1923 • (254) 953-1925 fax  
[www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org)

## Table of Contents:

	Professional Development .....	2
	Student Programs.....	5
	Parent Programs .....	6
	Literacy Initiatives.....	10
	Tell Me A Story.....	10
	Growing, Learning, and Understanding Kits.....	11

*See our training and professional development schedule at [www.MilitaryChild.org/professional/programs](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/professional/programs).*

*To find out more about MCEC Programs, go to [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org).*



## Most military children move 6-9 times during their K-12 school years.

Throw on top of that the deployments, separation from parents and extended family, dealing with returning wounded warriors, or the loss of a military family member and anyone can see why military-connected children might need a little extra help to reach their full potential.

The work of the Military Child Education Coalition® (MCEC®) is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition, and one of the biggest ways we do this is by educating the educators of our youth. Parents, childcare providers, teachers, counselors, administrators, and mentors all participate in helping our kids thrive.

Through multiple MCEC educational opportunities, we seek to show these adults how to best help our military-connected children and youth to thrive. It's the least we can do for an entire population whose service to our country is often overlooked. Keep reading to learn about all of our exciting programs that will help us help you to help our military-connected kids.

# MCEC Professional Development

The professional development arm of the MCEC assists professionals in fields such as education, health care, child care providers, and community business leaders in learning the most current research-based methods for supporting military-connected children and youth. Through training seminars, our highly skilled presenters show you the most effective ways to assist our constantly transitioning military-connected children and youth.

## Continuing Education Units & Graduate Credit

Many of the following courses are eligible to receive Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and/or non-degreed graduate credit. MCEC has been accredited as an Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training, a designation that allows us to offer you this opportunity.

All you must do to receive credit is to maintain 95% attendance, engage in the class activities and discussions, complete an end of course evaluation, and complete an end-of-course assessment with a minimum score of 80%. For CEU credit, you will earn 1.2 CEUs/12 clock hours for an additional \$25 payable to MCEC. Texas A&M-Central Texas will issue one hour of non-degreed graduate credit at \$50 per credit.

## Living in the New Normal™: Helping Children Thrive Through Good and Challenging Times

Everyone has a role in supporting military-connected children, and each component of the Living in the New Normal Initiative is designed to reach a distinct audience. Training topics include supporting children through challenges such as a sick or injured parent, trauma and loss, cycles of deployment as well as developing resilience skill during the good times.

*I had never really thought about what military children go through. It is all just such important information for everyone involved with military students.*

*Participant, El Paso, TX*

### Living in the New Normal™ Institute\*

This 2-day course for guidance counselors, professional educators, social workers, school nurses, installation leaders, transition specialists, community professionals and military parents will explore how concerned adults can improve the education of military-connected children and youth.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Differentiate social/emotional aspects of children dealing with change
- Recognize how a family member's military experience affects the child
- Formulate methods that build resilience and maximize the natural strengths of children
- Identify national, military, and community resources currently in place to support children
- Create unique home front plan to address needs of military children in the community

### Living in the New Normal™ Practicum\*

The LINN Practicum is a one-day accredited training with unique, practical, developmentally appropriate resources focused on supporting children's resilience.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Acquire a basic knowledge of the elements of resilience and its application to military-connected children
- Identify and apply resilience-building skills to prepare children for good and challenging times
- Identify tools and resources to foster resilience in children

*They brought a humanness to lessons that we could relate to.*

*It was one of the most organized, informative workshops-great materials.*

*Participant, Wheelock, MA*

\*CEU eligible

## Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute™\*

This 2-day course for school counselors, professional educators, social workers, school nurses and family support personnel will focus on the unique challenges faced by children of members of the National Guard and Reserve components.

### Learning Outcomes

- Recall basic information about the U.S. Military Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserves)
- Identify and discuss the effects of mobilization and deployment separation on children of Reserve Component Service Members
- Identify community and military resources and networks that support these military connected children
- Prepare an action plan model designed to encourage the natural resilience of these children in your professional communities

---

## Supporting Military Children through School Transitions™

A series of interactive professional development training institutes focused on the military-connected student's experience with transition. Divided into two sections, Foundations and Social/Emotional, these courses are for area public, parochial, and home school counselors, educators, installation and community leaders, transition specialists, and military parents.

*This training reenergizes my passion for working with our military-connected kids.*

*Participant, El Paso, TX*

### Supporting Military Children through School Transitions: Foundations™\*

This course creates an environment for participants to have access to professional networks, technologies, resources, and support systems to stay up to date on the dynamic and diverse K-12 school experience that impacts the transitioning student.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Explain how the elements of transition and separation impact the military family using print media, current research and participants' experience
- Interpret data from MCEC research and institute networking that addresses school transitions
- Analyze current transition practices/programs for entering and exiting mobile students by utilizing research and networking activities
- Formulate a viable transition

### Supporting Military Children through School Transitions: Social/Emotional™\*

This course focuses on the social and emotional implications of moving for the transitioning student.

#### Learning Outcomes

- Explain how the elements of transition and separation impact the military family using print media, current research and participants' experience
- Interpret data from MCEC research and institute networking that addresses school transitions
- Analyze current transition practices/programs for entering and exiting mobile students by utilizing research and networking activities
- Formulate a viable transition action plan to be used on individual campuses or at school district levels using focus group discussions, institute materials and instructor feedback

---

## Responding to the Military Child with Exceptional Needs™

This 2-day institute prepares professional educators, social service providers, parents, and community leaders to address the additional challenges associated with transitioning military-connected students with exceptional needs. For the purposes of this course, exceptional children are defined as those who need either special education services or gifted education services to maximize their individual potential.

### Learning Outcomes

- Identify amplified transition challenges of exceptional needs children
- Analyze processes to provide support and design methods to ease transitions
- Identify strategies to help exceptional needs children strengthen relationships, communication and hardiness

*I learned a lot about EFMP and MFLC and how they can help children with special needs. Learning about the Military Interstate Children's Compact was also very important for me.*

*Participant, Fairbanks, AK*

### *Professional Development continued*

## **Helping Military Children Discover Their S.P.A.R.C.: Strength, Potential, Aspirations, Resourcefulness, Confidence™**

This 1-day institute provides participants with strategies to assist young people develop hardiness skills to meet personal and professional goals. Participants learn to identify sparks and interests that contribute to a growth mindset in children and youth.

*It is very important for me to be a Spark Champion at home and at school. Children really need “Sparks.” Never overlook a child’s “spark” or passion to enhance their learning and build resilience.*

*Participant, S.P.A.R.C.*

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Explain what it means to thrive and the role of caring adults in helping children reach their full potential.
- Interpret current research on Thriving, and examine a specific four-step process to help adults support youth.
- Network with colleagues to develop strategies for promoting thriving attributes in children and youth.
- Analyze professional and personal practices as related to components of thrive and identify strategies and methodologies for application.

---

## **Health Professionals Institute™**

This multi-faceted program for health professionals is designed to build ongoing cycles of support, assessment, and program development to assist military-connected students.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Identify concepts & resources to support children through life changes or losses
- Describe the impact of both developmental stages and coping styles on how a child might grieve
- Discuss specific strategies for helping families struggling with attachment issues in the reintegration phase of deployment
- Explore the concept of primary and secondary loss and the impacts on military children after 10 years of conflict

*This course will definitely help me communicate with my patients about their challenges.*

*Participant, HPI*

## **Online Options Available!**

- **The Journey From Welcome Home to Now: Reunion, Reconnecting, Routine**  
Available early 2014!
- **Helping Military Children Discover Their S.P.A.R.C.: Strength, Potential, Aspirations, Resourcefulness, Confidence**  
Available spring 2014!
- **Supporting Military Children through School Transitions: Foundations\***  
Available fall 2014!

**and more to come!**

For more information or to register, go to [www.MilitaryChild.org/training](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/training)

# MCEC Student Programs

MCEC provides support to military-connected children through our peer-to-peer mentoring programs: *Elementary Student 2 Student™* (eS2S™), *Junior Student 2 Student™* (JS2S™), and *Student 2 Student™* (S2S™). MCEC student programs include leadership training through the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program™ for outstanding S2S members, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experience through the Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship for 6th-9th grade military-connected students.

## Student 2 Student™

This research based, high school student transition program is directed at highly mobile military families and is a student led and operated program. S2S



uses both military-connected and non military-connected high school students who are trained in leading transitioning students through their new and uncertain surroundings. They demonstrate 100% unconditional acceptance, providing valued information, friendship and assistance to new students from a peer viewpoint while helping them adjust to their new residence. A campus-based team consisting of students and adult advisors/sponsor attend 24 clock hours of training (delivered over consecutive days) that prepares them to implement the S2S program

on their campus. This training addresses three research-based modules that face every transitioning student: Finding the Way, Relationships, and Academics.

*I've been in the "moving to different schools" situation and Finding the Way is a perfect way to make new students feel welcome.*

S2S member, Ft. Belvoir, VA

## Junior Student 2 Student™

This program for middle school and junior high schools is a student-led, curriculum-based initiative aimed at making new military students feel welcomed and accepted.



Students are taught ways to assist their peers as they transition in or out of their school. This 2-day training for a team of up to 10 people per school consisting of six students, two adult sponsors from the school and representatives from the military installation's school and youth program office based on our three research-based modules: Academics, Relationships, and Finding the Way.

## Elementary Student 2 Student™

The MCEC *Elementary Student 2 Student* (eS2S) is an elementary program designed to increase awareness and address school transitions and concerns impacting mobile elementary school students through a faculty led model. A team consisting of four campus staff members, one district-level staff member, and two parents, attends an extensive, highly interactive, 12 hour training to identify transitional student needs, and create a customized campus model.

## Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program™

This highly selective, week-long leadership program for exemplary students in the MCEC S2S program delivers intensive leadership training, interaction with positive role models, and practical applications that benefit participants in their studies and throughout their lifetimes. The interactive course uses a series of activities, exercises, case studies, readings, mini lectures and fireside chats from positive role models to reinforce the key areas of emphasis including discussion of character, core values with an emphasis on personal growth and potential, citizenship, service learning, anti-bias, acceptance in relationships and the practice and process of leadership. Training programs take place at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, or the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs.

Participation in the FHSLP is a competitive process. Students receive information about the application process through the S2S sponsor at their school, or go to [www.MilitaryChild.org/parents-and-students/scholarships](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/parents-and-students/scholarships)

For more information on all student programs, contact Debra Longley at [Debra.Longley@MilitaryChild.org](mailto:Debra.Longley@MilitaryChild.org)

*I was able to refer to so many of my Student 2 Student responsibilities, trips and memories on my college application.*

S2S alumna

## Student Programs continued

### Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship

Established by the MCEC Board of Directors in 2001, the Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship was created in memory of 11 year-old Bernard, a passenger on the hijacked airliner that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

The scholarship gives military-connected children the opportunity to have a fully paid, week-long experience combining the worlds of science, service and learning. Campers delight in their week of exploration, and experience science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs in action. For more information about Space Camp, and how to apply go to [http://www.MilitaryChild.org/public/upload/images/SpaceCampApplication\\_Web.pdf](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/public/upload/images/SpaceCampApplication_Web.pdf)

*This camp has given me new inspiration for working towards my goals. Not only did I learn about space, I learned about teamwork and leadership, and met kids who were brilliant, like me!*

Scholarship recipient, grade 7

## MCEC Parent Programs

Parents are a child's primary and most important advocate. In recognition of that critical role, the MCEC developed a series of programs and workshops addressing needs based on a child's development stages. Offerings are updated regularly to reflect topics that are relevant and timely.

### Workshops (30-60 minutes)

#### ▶ School Transitions:

##### What Every Parent Should Know™

This introductory seminar will examine the social and academic impact of multiple school transitions on children of all ages. Participants will explore strategies and receive a wide variety of high quality resources which will enable them to obtain relevant information to make the plans necessary to assure smooth transitions for their students.

#### ▶ Coping with the Military Life Style™

This workshop will help parents understand the importance of raising resilient children. Participants will identify opportunities to build and strengthen resiliency skills in children during times of transition such as moving to a new place and starting a new school.

#### ▶ Building Resiliency Skills during Deployments and Transitions™

This seminar will show military families how to take the challenges they face during deployments and transitions and use them as unique teaching opportunities to build resiliency skills. Participants will learn the 7 C's of Resilience and how to incorporate strategies within their family that will build on these C's during normal transition as well as during deployment activities.



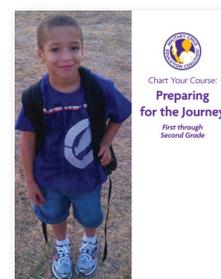
#### ▶ Preparing for the Journey™: Giving Your Kids a Head Start on the Road to Academic Success

Parents of children from birth to five years of age will explore how the early introduction to reading, math and science concepts can establish a strong foundation for later school success. Participants will emphasize these concepts through learning fun, interactive activities that help promote early learning. Kindergarten Readiness will also be addressed. The book *Preparing for the Journey*, along with other early literacy resources, will be provided.

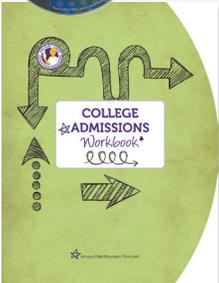


#### ▶ Keys to Success in Elementary School™

Parents of elementary school age children will explore the three keys to academic success throughout elementary school: organization, communication and involvement. Participants will receive high quality resources including the book *Preparing for the Journey*.



### ▶ **Chart Your Course (CYC) for Success in High School and Beyond™**



This seminar is designed for parents and their middle and high school aged students to attend together. Parents and students focus on a curriculum that will ensure both an on time graduation (despite multiple school transitions) and a competitive resume for college applications. Information, tools, and strategies to assist students in navigating the college application and financial aid process will also be addressed. Participants will receive a *Chart Your*

*Course Kit*, which includes a planning guide, a calendar outlining college admission and financial aid tasks and an interactive CD.

### ▶ **Chart Your Course (CYC): Keys to Success in Middle School™**

Setting a strong foundation in middle school will lead to success in high school. *Keys to Success in Middle School* examines both the social and academic aspects of school. Key topics in this workshop include effective communication, organization and the importance of routines. Parents will learn how they can help their students achieve academic success by setting a strong foundation in these key areas.

### ▶ **Parental Involvement: The Key to Academic Success™**

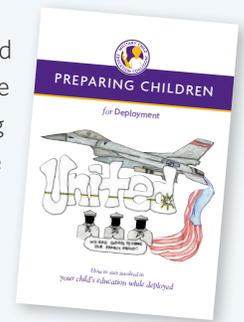
Research shows that children with involved parents are more likely to achieve academic success and do well in life. Parents engaged in their child's education send the message that their family values education. Participants will explore ways to become involved in their student's life at school and in the community. This workshop will help parents develop a plan for ongoing parental involvement, including during deployment.

### ▶ **Transitioning with a Student with Special Needs™**

Navigating the IEP process and special education policies in a new state can be confusing and sometimes frustrating. Participants will learn what resources are available in the local area and learn how to make a school transition a positive experience for the entire family.

### ▶ **Staying Connected to Your Child's Education during Deployment™**

Effective communication, planning, and staying involved in a child's education are all essential ingredients to maintaining strong connections within the family while experiencing separations. This workshop reinforces the importance of parental involvement in a child's education during deployment. This workshop explores the resources available for deploying parents and tips for staying involved with your child's education during deployment.



### ▶ **Time Management - Tools and Techniques™**

Now that school and after school activities are in full swing, it is time to get organized! It takes careful planning for parents and kids to accomplish all the necessary tasks that are required of school, sports and activities over the course of a 24-hour day. This workshop will provide parents with a range of tools and techniques they can use to help their children manage time to accomplish specific tasks, projects and goals.

### ▶ **Homework - Motivation, Strategies and Support™**

Research (and practical experience) reinforces the value of homework, with the support and encouragement of engaged parents, as a contribution to good study habits and, ultimately improved academic success. This workshop will explore ways to encourage good study habits, provide support and motivation at home and explore strategies for working with teachers to help students get the most out of homework.

#### **Topics include:**

- Avoiding Homework Hassles
- Tackling Homework Hassles - An expanded version of the Avoiding Homework Hassles workshop with additional exercises.

### ▶ **Test Taking Strategies - Easing Stress and Anxiety™**

All children take tests. What parents can do to help their children be the best test takers possible. Understanding the why and the how of test taking makes it easier to deal with. Proven strategies to help parents help their children and eliminate some of the stress and anxiety from the testing process.

## *Parent Programs continued*

### ▶ **Early Explorations: Baby Sign Language™**

Babies are happiest when they can communicate with the people who love them the most - their families. Signing is a tool that can be the key into an infant's thoughts and the springboard for future language development. The benefits of using baby sign language range from increased bonding with the parent or caregiver to a positive impact on cognitive and verbal development.

### ▶ **The Importance of Reading with Your Child at Home™**

Reading is the most important skill a child can develop to achieve academic success. A family's role in reading starts at birth and continues throughout life. This workshop will share ideas and fun ways to spark a love of reading in children and develop good reading habits for the entire family.

### ▶ **Back to School Basics™**

This workshop explores how parents can help improve their students' school performance. It provides common sense tip and research-based approaches explaining how children learn and ways to best prepare them to learn.

### ▶ **Portfolios and School Moves™**

Transitioning to a new school is never easy! A portfolio is a great way to keep accurate, up to date records for students. It also is a great tool for older students who are starting to build a competitive resume for college. Participants will learn how easy it is to build and maintain a portable record for their child's education documentation to ease the transition between schools and when changing duty assignments.

#### **Variations are:**

- Elementary School Showcase Portfolio
- Middle and High School Showcase Portfolio
- Elementary School Transition Portfolio
- Middle and High School Transition Portfolio

### ▶ **The College Application Process™**

This workshop focuses on navigating the college application process. College criteria, choosing the right college, getting letters of recommendation, tracking application deadlines, researching financial aid and searching for scholarships are just some of the things that are covered in this workshop.

### ▶ **The College Application Process™ (3 hours)**

*Recommended for parents/students in 10th and 11th grades*  
In this expanded version of the basic workshop, participants will learn about the MCEC six-year academic plan, review college criteria, discuss choosing the right college, requesting letters of recommendation, tracking application deadlines, researching financial aid and searching for scholarships. The workshop includes participation in a mock interview, a resume-writing session, and strategies for how to make an application stand out from the crowd. This in-depth workshop is most effective when both the parent and the college applicant can attend together.

### ▶ **Learning Styles and Your Child™**

Everyone has a personal learning style. It may be one or a combination of ways in which one learns best. Knowing a child's personal learning style will help capitalize on his/her strengths at school and at home. Parents will learn about the various learning styles and how to identify what style works best for their child.

### ▶ **Kindergarten - Preparing for a Great Start™**

Starting Kindergarten is exciting for a parent and child. This workshops focus on tips and strategies that parents can use to make it a successful first year of school for their child. We will help parents prepare for this important step in their child's life.

#### **Topic workshops are:**

- Keys to Success in Kindergarten
- Kindergarten Readiness

### ▶ **Preventing the Summer Slide™**

Research shows, on average, children are set back by 25% in reading skills each summer. Math skills also suffer during this break in learning and it typically takes teachers anywhere from four to six weeks to get students back on track in the fall. Educators commonly refer to this phenomenon as the "summer slide." This workshop will uncover simple ways parents can engage their children in educational activities during the summer without them even noticing they are doing it!

### ▶ **Early Literacy Workshops™**

#### **Early Explorations in Math, Science, Music and Reading**

Workshops emphasize ways to expand a child's horizons through literacy. Carefully selected children's literature introduces critical components of math, science, music and reading.

## Supporting Caregiver Parents™

Caregiving is not a new phenomenon, and the caregivers of our nation's wounded, ill, or injured Veterans are frequently also parents who are caring for individuals with complex challenges often requiring a lifetime of care. The MCEC is addressing this reality with programs that acknowledge the challenges for these parents, while recognizing opportunities and providing support for children to thrive.

### Webinars

#### ▶ **Grief, Trauma and Loss in Children™**

Participants will learn strategies for helping children deal with grief, trauma, and loss. Emphasis will be placed on respecting the cultural traditions, belief systems, and privacy of each child.

#### ▶ **Positive Psychology and Developing Skills to Help Children and Youth Build Resilience and Thrive™**

Participants will explore what it means to thrive and the role of caring adults in helping children reach their full potential. Participants will continue to build their toolkit of strategies for supporting children's resilience and competence.

#### ▶ **Processes That Support Military/Veteran-Connected Children with Exceptional Needs™**

Participants will identify the amplified transition challenges that impact mobile military-connected students with exceptional needs and design methods to ease transitions for these children and youth. Participants will also have the opportunity to form networks with other caregivers who have children with exceptional needs.

#### ▶ **School Transition Concerns Impacting Military/Veteran-Connected Children™**

Participants will formulate plans for setting the conditions that allow smooth transitions for children/youth to occur automatically. Participants will design and implement methods to ease the social/emotional transition complexities impacting children and youth.

---

### Workshops (30-60 minutes)

#### ▶ **Adaptability to Change™**

Participants will develop effective communication skills that promote a child's ability to adapt to change and adjust to new expectations and ways of doing things. Participants will discuss how change affects preschool, school-aged and middle/high school youth. Parental tips to support children/youth through any change will also be explored.

#### ▶ **Bouncing Back: Turning Stress into Strength™**

Participants will examine the positive side of stress and ways to channel it productively. They will also network with other caregivers to develop strategies which can be applied when working with growing children and budding adults. A personal stress management plan for children and youth will be introduced.

#### ▶ **Choosing a Better Tomorrow™**

Participants will learn the elements of wellbeing, benefits of developing a positive mindset, and the role of gratitude and service in launching children on a lifetime of success. Strategies for reframing a situation and positive self-talk are among the valuable tools presented.

#### ▶ **Creating Strong Families™**

Participants will examine the qualities that make families strong. They will discuss daily habits that build permanent connections and enduring relationships with children. Suggestions for nurturing and strengthening relationships in the family will be provided.

#### ▶ **Developing Positive Coping Strategies™**

Participants will focus on positive coping skill areas which help caregivers steer children toward reframing events as challenges rather than traumas. Special emphasis is placed on strengthening lines of communication, the value of quality time, and managing emotions appropriately.

#### ▶ **Homework Help and Strategies™**

Participants will learn the 5 M's of limiting homework hassles and timely tips for helping students get the greatest benefit from homework. Participants will also explore homework hints that enable students to develop the skills of an independent learner.

### Parent Programs continued

#### ▶ **Organizing the Important Stuff™**

Participants will explore many options for establishing orderliness for their child's world and will come away with ready solutions for encouraging positive habits of organization. They will also examine the world of children for whom organization is a real struggle and will leave with suggestions for providing solid support.

#### ▶ **Persistent and Challenging Behaviors™**

Participants will learn the importance of promoting positive behaviors, guidelines for using criticism thoughtfully, and when to seek professional help and additional resources.

#### ▶ **School Success - Tips, Technology and More™**

Participants will learn ideas and tips that will improve their children's potential for success in school. They will also have the opportunity to network with other caregiver parents and explore technology support for staying connected with school personnel.

#### ▶ **Social Building Blocks for a Sturdy Foundation™**

Participants will learn key and essential social milestones for the very young child, elementary-aged child, and middle/high school young adult. Participants will also explore parent tips for addressing issues when delays in developmental milestones become evident.

---

### Let's Chat About...™ Series (small group discussion style, 30-60 minutes)\*

#### ▶ **Let's Chat About™...School Success**

Examines the importance of establishing a line of communication with educators, discussing difficult topics with teachers, and maximizing parent-teacher conferences.



#### ▶ **Let's Chat About™...Organizing the Important Stuff**

Explores organization solutions to the sometimes chaotic lives of caregivers. Providing opportunities to collaborate on working solutions to simplify life.

#### ▶ **Let's Chat About™...Choosing a Better Tomorrow for your Adolescent Child**

Encourages caregiving parents of middle and high school children, by discussing how to stay "plugged in to the plugged in generation."

#### ▶ **Let's Chat About™...Choosing a Better Tomorrow for your Young Child**

Encourages caregiving parents of young children to foster going beyond resiliency to thrive, discover champions, and discover an optimistic outlook.

*\*Support provided through an Elizabeth Dole Foundation innovation grant*

---

## MCEC Literacy Initiatives

MCEC Early Literacy Initiatives provide parents and caregivers with tools, resources and strategies to support young children in developing a strong academic foundation, and social/emotional fortitude. The content areas are: English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

### Tell Me A Story™:

#### Making Connections and Finding Support through Literature

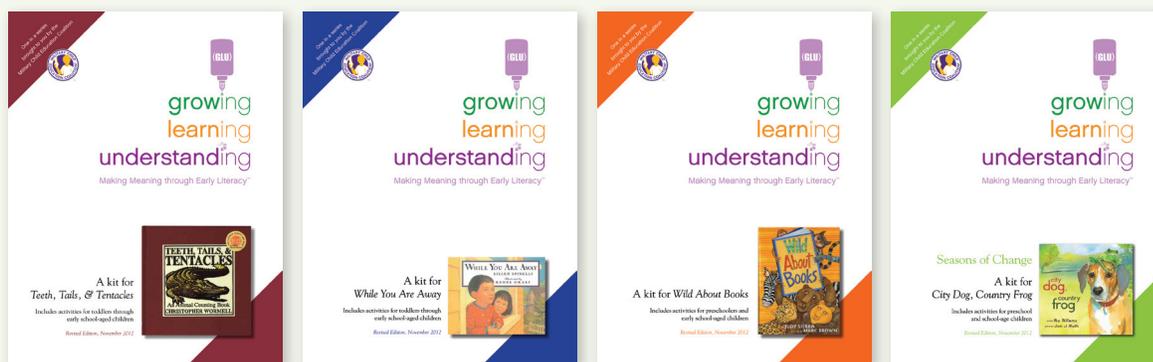
Tell Me A Story (TMAS) is an initiative created to empower our military children by using literature and their own stories. TMAS is geared toward children ages 4-12. The mission of the TMAS Program is to use literature as a tool for connecting parents and children. TMAS provides opportunities to open up discussion on difficult topics such as deployment, separation and moving. TMAS features the reading of a carefully selected book, and is followed by a facilitated discussion, and a guided activity. Each family receives a copy of the book at the conclusion of the event.

---

## Growing, Learning, Understanding™ Kits

MCEC Growing, Learning, and Understanding (GLU) kits are self-contained resources that all parents, child care providers and educators can expand upon, adapt to the needs of their children, and use over and over again. Each GLU kit contains high-interest children's literature books, selected based on a given theme and accompanied by a workbook of activities adaptable to a range of ages and developmental levels. More GLU kits coming in 2014...

Available for purchase at [www.MilitaryChild.org/store](http://www.MilitaryChild.org/store)



### ► It's Okay to be Different GLU™ Kit

This GLU kit for toddlers through second grade confirms that all kinds of differences are great and nurtures self-esteem while building children's acceptance of both their own individuality and the differences they see in others. Kit includes the books *It's Okay to Be Different*, *We're Different*, *We're the Same*, and *My Friend Isabelle*, as well as a set of multicultural hand puppets and information sheets covering self-esteem nurturing, tolerance teachings, and social skills for children who have special needs. ....\$38.00

### ► Wild About Books GLU™ Kit

This kit, using *Wild About Books* as the anchor selection, was developed to nurture preK through second grade children's early passion for learning, instill in them a strong love of literature and reading, and help guarantee their success in school and in life. Other books are also included.. .\$.49.00

### ► Finding Your Way GLU™ Kit

While this kit features many activities that involve reading, writing, and higher-order thinking skills ideally suited for first and second graders, preschoolers will also enjoy and benefit from hands-on activities and opportunities to communicate their thoughts and feelings. *Finding Your Way* does address issues of grief and loss and includes the books *Annie Loses Her Leg But Finds Her Way*, *A Good Day*, *Max's Words*, and *Own and Mzee*.....\$74.95

### ► Teeth, Tails & Tentacles GLU™ Kit

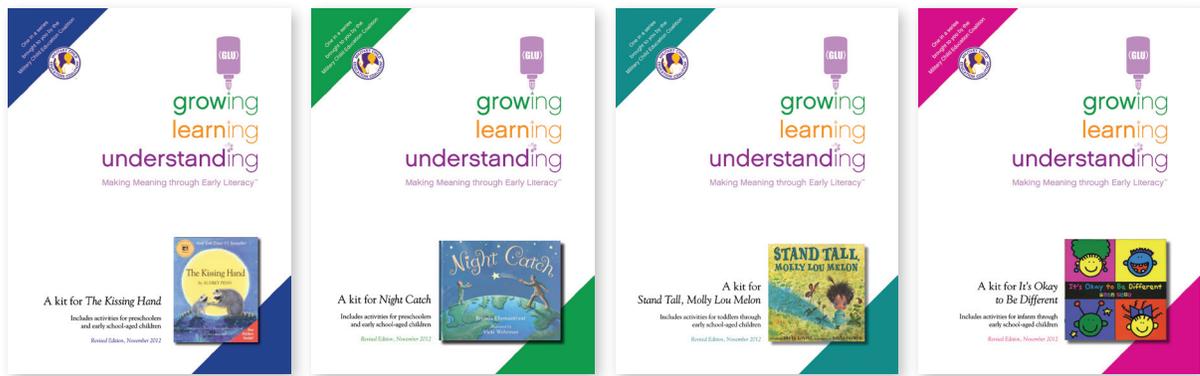
This kit, using *Teeth, Tails & Tentacles* as the anchor selection, is designed for toddlers through second grade students, builds math and art literacy skills simultaneously by asserting that math is everywhere and fine art is accessible and appropriate for all ages. Other books are also included.....\$24.00

### ► Stand Tall GLU™ Kit

This GLU kit for toddlers through early school age children, assists parents and care providers in setting the stage for children's good choices and contains activities that will assist children in exploring their own competence, learning how to take care of themselves and others, and beginning to make healthy, responsible decisions. The books *Stand Tall*, *Molly Lou Melon*, and *Clementina's Cactus* are included as well as a food pyramid and kid-friendly recipes.....\$59.95

### ► While You Are Away GLU™ Kit

Developed to support children during deployment and honor their service when a family member is deployed, this GLU kit is designed for toddlers through early school age children. It includes the books *While You Are Away*, *In My Heart*, *How Many Stars in the Sky?* and resources that cover the deployment cycle. Activity ideas will help children feel close to their loved ones, ease the adjustment to different responsibilities that deployment may bring, and nurture strong family bonds. ....\$48.95



**Literacy Initiatives continued**

▶ **Seasons of Change GLU™ Kit**

Designed for children in preschool through fifth grade, this GLU kit is intended to assist children in embracing change through the characters and themes found within literature and poetry. With deployments, trainings, frequent moves, and changing schools, military connected children are no strangers to change. This kit will give parents activities and tools that they can use to foster meaningful communication about change..... \$59.95

▶ **The Kissing Hand GLU™ Kit**

Transitions, including the first day of school or child care, occur in every family and are highlighted through *The Kissing Hand* as the primary selection. This kit helps preK through second grade students discuss their love and traditions with family members as a way of dealing with transitions. Activity ideas encourage the discussion or development of family traditions, how to extend family traditions to other settings, encourage dialogue about family love, and discuss the power of stories to comfort and bolster children. Other books are also included. .... \$32.00

▶ **Night Catch GLU™ Kit**

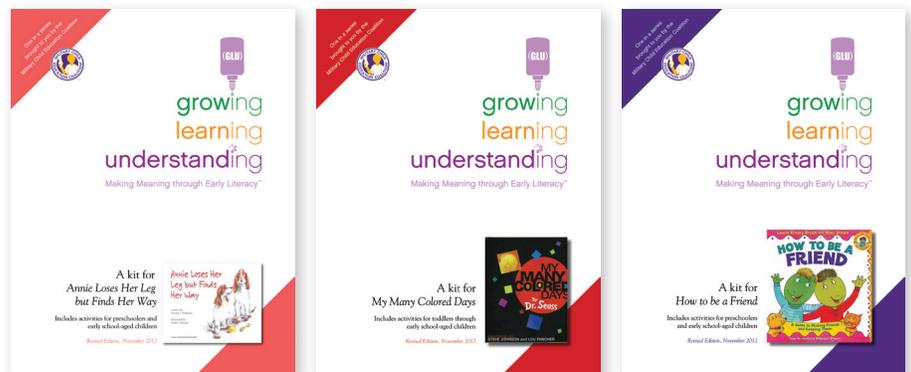
*Night Catch* is the framing book for activities and discussions honoring the sense of awe and wonder that drives preK through second grade children, this kit fosters the natural scientist and born learner in every child. Activity ideas address the challenges of deployment and separation, explain location and introduce geography, discuss the passage of time, and instill a love of learning while fostering strong research skills. .... \$49.00

▶ **How to be a Friend GLU™ Kit**

Aimed at preK through second grade students, the *How to be a Friend* kit offers activities and ideas to help kids better understand the complex components of friendship. This kit is founded on the idea that in order to be a good friend, children must first have a strong and secure sense of self. Activities included in this kit explicitly teach basic social skills and provide the tools kids need to begin and build healthy relationships and to identify and avoid negative relationships. Books include *How to be a Friend*, *Travels with Toot and Puddle*, and *Leonardo the Terrible Monster*. .... \$62.95

▶ **My Many Colored Days GLU™ Kit**

Helping children understand their emotions is an important first step in empowering them to be in control of themselves. In *My Many Colored Days*, Dr. Seuss uses colors to talk about moods and feelings, conveying the important message that it's okay to feel all different kinds of ways. Thinking about emotions in relation to colors gives children a visual representation of something that is very conceptual. .... \$26.00



MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION®  
16<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR



KEEPING THE  
PROMISE

*...for the sake of the child.*

JULY 29-30, 2014

Washington Marriott Wardman Park  
Washington, DC

SAVE THE DATE



WATCH FOR UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.MILITARYCHILD.ORG/NTS](http://WWW.MILITARYCHILD.ORG/NTS)

**GRADUATE CREDIT FOR THE 2014 MCEC NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR**

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has established a working relationship with the University of San Diego (USD) that allows conference participants to register for one unit of graduate extension credit. USD is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Credits may be transferred to a degree program, but participants should first consult with the degree granting organization for this permission. Credits are generally used for personal growth, certification and/or salary enhancement purposes.