“Military Kids & Families”

A Select List of Brown County Library Children’s Books
(Preschool – Elementary School)

Click on each title below to see the library’s catalog record. Then click on the title in the record for details, current availability, or to place a hold. For additional books and items on this theme, ask your librarian or search the library’s online catalog.

**My Red Balloon** – Eve Bunting
This picture book shows the joy of homecoming as a little boy with a “welcome home” balloon waits in an excited crowd for his father to disembark from a Navy aircraft carrier after many months at sea.

**Alpha Bravo Charlie: The Military Alphabet** – Chris L Demarest
This large-format alphabet book uses the military alphabet from alpha to zulu, with illustrations featuring each letter’s U.S. Navy signal flag and military scenes. An author’s note explains the history and purpose of the military alphabet.

**Captain Cat** – Syd Hoff
A striped cat makes friends with a soldier and learns about military life. The vocabulary, illustrations and adventures will appeal to kids learning to read on their own and to younger children as a read-aloud.

**When Dad’s at Sea** – Mindy L Pelton
While Emily’s dad, a Navy pilot, is gone for a six-month deployment, she marks each day by removing one link from the paper chain he made for her. This is a story of separation, sadness, adjustment and joyous return.

**The Kissing Hand** – Audrey Penn
This sentimental picture book is a reassuring tale about separation. When a young raccoon doesn’t want to leave home for school, his mom kisses his palm, telling him that whenever he gets lonely, he should press his hand to his cheek so the kiss will “fill you with toasty warm thoughts.”

**If You Listen** – Charlotte Zolotow
A little girl longs for her father, and her mother reassures her there is a way to know that someone far away loves you.

**Don’t Forget, God Bless Our Troops** – Jill Biden
The author takes inspiration from her own family in telling this story of what life is like for a young girl and her family whose soldier father has deployed to Iraq. Includes additional information helpful for military families.

**I Miss You!: A Military Kids’ Book about Deployment** – Beth Andrews
This book is a tool for children and their families to express the varied emotions caused by deployment. It is based on the author’s years of experience as a social worker assisting military families.

**Mommy Don’t Go** – Elizabeth Crary
Using the general example of mother-child separation, this book illustrates problem-solving and thinking skills, as readers help a young boy decide what to do.
Pilot Mom – Kathleen Benner Duble
Jenny is uneasy as her mother, a tanker pilot in the Air Force, prepares to leave for a training mission. They go through the goodbye ritual of filling the pockets of her mom’s flight suit, while mom openly shares the pride and realities of her duties.

The Soldiers’ Night before Christmas – Trish Holland and Christine Ford
This light-hearted, cartoon-illustrated version of Clement Moore’s classic poem takes place on a U.S. Army base in the desert. It ends with “Happy Christmas, brave soldiers! May peace come to all!”

Love, Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom – Lisa Tucker McElroy
Nine-year-old Lizzie deals with absence of her mother, who is deployed overseas during wartime, by writing newsy letters. Includes tips on “When a parent is deployed.”

The Impossible Patriotism Project – Linda Skeers
After struggling with a school assignment to make something that symbolizes patriotism, Caleb creates a display of photos featuring his dad, who is away from home in the military. For grades 1-3.

Heroes – Ken Mochizuki
Set during the Vietnam War, this picture book for grades 2-4 tells about a young Japanese-American boy who always has to play the enemy in war games with his friends because he “looks like them.” A discussion-starter on the nature of heroism, this book is also a tribute to the all-Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Nonfiction series:
“Military Branches” series (Pebble Plus)
With a book each on the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps, these large-format non-fiction picture books feature bright photographs of the machines, technology and brave people serving in the military. The simple text is perfect for beginning readers on their own or for reading aloud to younger children.

“People of the U.S. Armed Forces” series (Pebble Plus)
Similar in format and reading level to the “Military Branches” series, this series includes four titles focusing on our country’s sailors, soldiers, airmen and marines.

“Elite military forces” series (First Facts)
Basic introductions for grades 2-4 on Army Rangers, Delta Force, Navy Seals and Green Berets.

“United States Armed Forces” series (A & D xtreme series)
This new 2012 series for grades 4-8 includes titles on the army, air force, green berets, marine corp and navy. Packed with information and full color action photos, this series is great for older reluctant readers.

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