

Speaker Notes

Tips for Teachers: Working with Children During Deployment

Page 1 – Title Slide

None

Page 2 – Objectives

None

Page 3 – Signs to Look for in Students

- These could be signs that the student is experiencing stress due to changes in their lives, such as having a military parent whose deployment has been extended for several months.
- These are normal responses to an abnormal situation. However, they can become problematic if they persist or worsen and interfere with functioning.

Page 4 – Signs to Look for in Students (Continued)

- Regression to earlier behaviors: For example, thumb sucking, bed wetting, “clinging” to a parent or teacher, or expressing fear that the custodial parent will die or be lost.
- Fear of doing things earlier accomplished: Children may become fearful of doing things they have been successful at before—for example, as sports activity or speaking in front of the class.
- Be aware that children may have unexpected responses to seemingly benign situations. For example, seeing a dad at a school activity or experiencing a birthday with dad away may provoke sadness, tears, or anger in a child who otherwise seems to be doing well.

Page 5 – Suggestions for Teachers

None

Page 6 – Suggestions for Teachers (Continued)

- Be empathetic: Teachers are urged to be empathetic and positive in all communications with parents in this stressful time.
- Work with parents: Coordinating with the parents and working with them to help the child is key. Report behaviors observed in class and ask parents about behaviors they observe at home. Remember that teachers are not mental health workers and should not diagnose. The teacher’s job is to observe behaviors and report any problem behaviors or concerns to parents.
- Remind parents that services are available: Teachers can help by reminding parents that there are services available to assist with child and family problems, but it is up to the parent to decide when to seek help. For a list of useful services, see the Resources page of this presentation.

Page 7 – Signs to Look for in Parents

- Parents are under tremendous stress and may be experiencing many of the same things as their children are. Anxiety is high, and normal coping skills may be compromised because of the added stress of the extension.
- Check in with the parents to see how they are doing and offer support. Letting them you know you understand and are there for them too helps to establish a bond that can facilitate their working with you more collaboratively.

Page 8 – Signs to Look for in Parents (Continued)
None

Page 9 – Summary
None

Page 10 – Questions
None

Page 11 – Resources
None

Page 12 – References
None

Page 13 – Thank You
None

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