

MILITARY ONE SOURCE CONNECTION



Keeping you informed about products and services

1-800-342-9647

Free Tutoring for Military Families at Tutor.com

"This service is incredible! Being deployed to Iraq, I was very worried about my kids' grades. This is a great service. Thanks."

- Army parent

"LOVEDDDDDDD the way the tutor was SO supportive. It's very nice for the military to offer this. :)"

- 8th Grader from a Navy family



Parents and kids alike are raving about **Tutor.com**, the free online tutoring service provided to eligible military families around the world by the Department of Defense. With this program, students can work with a certified, professional tutor online to get help with homework, study skills, test prep, and more. Tutors

cover math, science, social studies, and English from K-12 to the introductory college level.

To get started, go to www.tutor.com, select your service branch, and follow the directions to get a password. After registering, you will receive an e-mail with your access code and you'll be ready to begin chatting online with your tutor. Those eligible for the service include U.S. active-duty military members and their dependents; U.S. military reservists on active duty in a deployed status and their dependents; U.S. National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status and their dependents; and DoD civilians in a deployed status and their dependents.

If you need help getting started, you can e-mail the staff at help@tutor.com or call them at 1-800-411-1970.

Communicating with Your Child's Teacher When You're Deployed

It's important to communicate regularly with your child's teachers from kindergarten through high school. Schools often make this easier by arranging parent-teacher meetings, but being deployed can make it hard to stay involved. This information can help:

Ways to stay in touch

With the use of new technologies and a little planning, you can stay involved with your child's school life throughout your deployment. Be sure to:

- **Meet with your child's teacher before you deploy.** Exchange e-mail addresses and let the teacher know if you would like to be informed about specific issues, such as a low grade or an unexcused absence.
- **A spouse or caregiver can help** with attendance, homework, and communication with the teacher.

- **Know what resources the school has available.** Many schools have Web sites that will keep you up-to-date on your child's schoolwork. If your child is in a DoD school, for example, you can get connected to GradeSpeed, which will keep you current on your child's grades and attendance. To access GradeSpeed, visit dodea.gradespeed.net.

- **Send a package to the classroom.** If you can send something from a faraway place that relates to their work, the the subject will feel more real. And your child will beam when the box is opened.

Attending a parent-teacher conference

Almost every school holds some form of parent-teacher conference—a conversation you have with a teacher about

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Military Spouses are Different

They're resourceful, organized, and committed, which makes them real assets in the work force. If you're thinking about expanding your skill set to a first-time or different career, be sure to visit our comprehensive Military OneSource Spouse Career Web page. It's loaded with expert advice for spouses who want to assess their career potential, make a knock-out resume, or learn the value of networking. Go to www.MilitaryOneSource.com and click on "Find Information," then on "Career & Education," and then on "Career."

Do You Home School Your Kids?

If you're a military parent who has chosen to home school your child, our resource guide, *Home Schooling Resources for Military Families*, will help you find useful organizations, state and local resources, DoDEA resources, Web sites, books, and magazines. If you don't home school, but you'd like to know more about what home schooling involves, be sure to read our companion piece, *Is Home Schooling Right for Your Child?* Read either article by typing the title into the search box at www.MilitaryOneSource.com.

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your child's schoolwork. When you're deployed, you may end up communicating by e-mail or online chats, or by relaying concerns through your spouse. If you have access to video-teleconferencing (VTC) and the school is able to set it up, you may be able to attend the parent-teacher conference.

- **Ask for the teacher's support before you deploy.** Express your interest in attending the parent-teacher conference. Ask if the school has VTC capabilities, or if you can attend the conference through an online chat.
- **Plan ahead.** At least a month before parent-teacher conferences begin, e-mail your child's teacher to begin planning the conference.
- **If you can't attend the conference,** ask your spouse or your child's caregiver to attend and relay your questions or concerns. Be specific with your questions and ask your spouse or your child's caregiver to take notes.
- **Prepare for the conference.** Before the parent-teacher conference, review your child's work. Your child, your spouse, or your child's guardian may be able to send you copies.
- **Ask your child** what she thinks the teacher will say so you can anticipate some of the issues that might come up at the conference.
- **Write down all your ideas and concerns.** If you're attending the conference through an online chat or VTC, your time may be limited. Your list will help you stay focused on the issues you are most concerned about.
- **Develop an action plan.** If you're concerned about your

About Military OneSource

This free 24-hour service from the Department of Defense is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues. Free face-to-face counseling in the local community (up to twelve sessions per issue) is also available to service members and family members. To reach the program call 1-800-342-9647 or access the Web site at www.MilitaryOneSource.com.

Whether you home school or not, you'll find some great enrichment activities at the TumbleBook Library Educator's Web site, which provides instant access to grade-appropriate classroom activities that complement books in the TumbleBook Library collection. Just go to www.tumblebooks.com/teacher_web/ or at www.MilitaryOneSource.com click on "education/K-12," then on "home schooling" to find the TumbleBook Library.



child's academic performance or behavior, work with the teacher to develop a plan for improvement. Maybe you can set up more time to help your child by e-mail or voice chats. Maybe the teacher can recommend a tutor. Ask your spouse or your child's caregiver to work with your child to find the help he needs.

- **Thank your child's teacher** and any others who helped coordinate the conference.

Remember that Military OneSource can help

This free 24-hour service is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues, including parenting and deployment concerns. Free face-to-face counseling sessions (and their equivalent by phone or online) are also available. Call 1-800-342-9647 or go to www.MilitaryOneSource.com to learn more.

This excerpt is from the Military OneSource article "Communicating with Your Child's Teacher When You're Deployed." To read the entire article, go to www.MilitaryOneSource.com and type the title into the search box. The article was written with the assistance of Wilhemina McKinney, Educational Partnership Branch, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

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Military OneSource

By phone, online, and face-to-face

You name it. We can help—24/7!

1-800-342-9647

Overseas: xx-800-3429-6477 (Country access codes can be found online)

Collect from Overseas: 484-530-5908 (Dial an international operator first)

En español llame al: 1-877-888-0727