

# Supporting Military Kids in the Classroom

## Educator Considerations

Following are considerations developed by the National Military Family Association (NMFA) for educators participating in the United in Service classroom lesson and event, hosted by Harmony Academy at National University in partnership with NMFA.

### Understanding the Military Child Experience

Military kids face unique challenges related to their family's service, including:

- **Frequent separations** – Parents may be deployed or away for extended periods.
- **Frequent relocations** – Moving every 1-2 years can mean adjusting to new schools, friends, and communities.
- **Family health challenges** – Some children have parents with visible or invisible service-related injuries.
- **Additional responsibilities** – Many military kids take on extra duties at home to support their families.
- **Lack of understanding from schools or communities** – Some military kids may experience unfair assumptions or expectations.

### Creating a Supportive Classroom for Military Kids

- **Recognize the diversity of military families** – They come from all backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences.
- **Acknowledge their contributions** – While service members often receive thanks, military kids also serve in their own way.
- **Provide space for connection** – Military kids, like all students, need opportunities to share their experiences and feel heard.
- **Foster a supportive environment** – ensure all students can share at their comfort level, without singling out military-connected students.
- **Use trauma-informed approaches** – Some military kids may have experienced stressors similar to trauma, including frequent moves and concern for a parent's safety.

### About Harmony Academy

Harmony Academy at National University is a leading innovator in education, empowering educators, schools, and families to create learning experiences that accelerate student growth, build strong, healthy relationships, and develop relationship skills like teamwork, communication, respect, and resilience. For more information, visit [harmony-academy.org](https://harmony-academy.org)

### About NMFA

For over 55 years, NMFA has worked with families to identify and solve the unique challenges of military life through advocacy, research, and programs to create a world where military families are thriving. NMFA serves all military families across all 8 uniformed services, all duty types, and all stages of military life. To learn more about military families, the challenges they face, and how we can support them, please visit NMFA's website [www.militaryfamily.org](https://www.militaryfamily.org)

Thank you for helping to create a supportive learning environment for all students!