

# Early Years Service Children Champion

## One minute guide

**Who is an Early Years Service Child?** – A child aged 0-5 years who has a parent or carer who serves in the regular armed forces (Army, Navy or RAF), or as a reservist or has done at any point.

**Why is it important?** – Service Children can experience unique challenges, including frequent moves, parental deployment, separation from family members, and transitions between settings. These experiences can affect emotional wellbeing, learning, and feelings of belonging.

### **As the Early Years Service Children's Champion, my role is to:**

- Raise awareness of the needs of Service children in Early Years settings.
- Support practitioners to understand and respond to the impact of military life.
- Signpost families and professionals to appropriate support and resources.
- Promote inclusive practice that helps Service children feel safe, valued, and understood.
- Strengthen partnerships between families, settings, and communities.



**UK Government**

### **Five Key Messages for Practice –**

- **Follow children's interests** – helps them feel understood, confident and develop a sense of belonging.
- **Build emotional security** – consistent routines help children feel safe and secure.
- **Celebrate unique experiences** – recognise military life positively and help children feel proud of their identity.
- **Provide stability during transitions** – small consistencies can make big changes easier to manage.
- **Work closely with families** – parents provide valuable insight into a child's experiences, strengths and support needs

Service children may not always be visible, but their experiences matter. Early identification, strong relationships, and consistent support can make a significant difference to their wellbeing and development.

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