

## Opportunities on the Horizon

All webinars begin at  
11:00 am ET

JUL  
27

Coming Together with  
Sesame Street:  
Resources for Racial  
Justice

JUL  
28

Navigating Education  
Laws & Policies for  
Military Families with  
Special Needs

AUG  
3

Diversity, Equity and  
Inclusion in Youth  
Programs: Developing  
Inclusive Program  
Structures

AUG  
17

Financial Planning for  
Transition: Train-the-  
Trainer

AUG  
24

Diversity, Equity, and  
Inclusion in Youth  
Programs: Fostering  
Supportive Adult-Youth  
Relationships

## Building Racial Literacy Among Military Caregivers and Children

by Jenny Rea, Ph.D.



From a very young age, children (even babies) recognize differences. The ability to differentiate has been extensively studied across areas of development. As early as birth, babies can differentiate between male and female caregivers and can differentiate between those who speak their native language and those who do not (Lingras, 2021). "We know that babies notice physical differences, from skin color to

eye shape and hair texture" (SesameWorkshop.org, 2021). For instance, by three months of age, infants have an awareness of race and show preference to a person whose race matches their own (Baxley, 2021 & Lingras, 2021). At six to eight months, infants learn when uncertainty is present by relying on own-race adults. [Follow the story...](#)

### Racial Literacy and Youth Inclusion Webinars

Racism hurts our entire society. Whether you and the children in your care are directly affected by racism or you are allies of those who are, engaging honestly and directly with little ones is the beginning of building racial literacy.

[Learn about new resources](#) from your friends at Sesame Street to develop children's understanding, curiosity, resilience and empathy - and to prepare for the task of building a better world by standing up, standing tall, and standing together.



August 3, 2021 - In part one of a two part series, [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Youth Programs: Developing Inclusive Program Structures](#), participants will see how youth programs that are welcoming and safe are built on a program structure aimed at protecting and empowering all young people. Learn how your youth program structure can impact diversity, equity, and inclusion and strategies for adapting your program structure to make it more inclusive.

August 24, 2021 - In part two of the series, [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Youth Programs: Fostering Supportive Adult-Youth Relationships](#), participants will see how supportive adult-youth relationships are an important component of youth programs and critical to create a welcoming and safe environment. Learn strategies to foster supportive adult-youth relationships and help make your program more inclusive.



# Sign up for the MFLN Family Transitions Newsletter!

## Military Family Readiness During and After COVID-19

by Karen Shirer, Ph.D.



Lindsey, a military spouse, lives on the West Coast with her husband, an active-duty Marine, and her two children, 2 and 4 years old. The year 2020 was a tough one for her military family due to COVID-19. In March, her husband, mother and she contracted COVID-19. All three recovered in several weeks but Lindsey lost her position as a director of development for a local theatre.

Then, her husband received orders to report to a base on the East Coast in June. Permanent change of stations, like her husband's, were put on hold due to the pandemic but were lifted in May. They moved to their new home in June.

Lindsey has been able to find part-time contract work as a fundraiser but even with applying for many positions has not been able to find a full-time, permanent position. [Source: Many military families are struggling in the era of Covid](#)

Lindsey's experiences with COVID-19 are not unique. Military families, like civilian families, continue to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This novel virus in early 2020 spread quickly across the country and world. Military families faced, like with other disasters, threats to their physical, psychological, and economic well-being, and needed to draw upon their resilience.

Military Family Service Providers (MFSPs) can play an important role in supporting and guiding military families through the pandemic. [Follow the story...](#)

### Featured Blog Posts

Dr. Karen Shirer's blog post series, *Military Family Readiness During and After COVID 19*:

[Revisiting the Pandemic: Lessons Learned for Future Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness](#)

[Managing the Ups and Downs of the Pandemic: What We've Learned about Supporting Military Families and Parents](#)

[Looking to the Future after the Pandemic: Where Do We Go From Here?](#)

[Resource Discovery: Sesame Street's New Coming Together Initiative](#), Kalin Goble

### Featured MFLN Podcasts

[Let's Talk Transition](#) - the MFLN Family Transitions team shares stories and educational interviews about serving military families in transition

[Exploring The Thrive Initiative's Digital Empowerment Resource for Parents and Professionals - Anchored Episode 23](#)

[Warm Collaboration \(S.2, Ep.3\)](#)

[MoneyTalk: Building a Positive Credit History](#)

### Meet our MFLN Partner

MFLN has collaborated with [Sesame Street to showcase research and resources](#) to support childhood development and family strengthening. Each webinar is free to attend, available for archived viewing, and offers opportunities for continuing education credit. We've also welcomed guest blog post writers from Sesame Street to highlight new and upcoming resources and initiatives for military-connected families.

Visit Sesame Street for more resources at [Sesame Street for Military Families](#) and [Sesame Street in Communities](#)

THANK YOU SESAME STREET FOR PARTNERING WITH MFLN!

### Meet Our Team

