



MCEC Parent to Parent Growth



MCEC conducted a *Parent to Parent* Training event at headquarters this summer with new and returning trainers in attendance. Parent educators received the latest information on the *Parent to Parent* program and got an opportunity to observe workshops, learn about new policies and procedures, and practice the craft of workshop preparation and delivery.

***Parent to Parent* teams are now in place in the following communities:**

- > El Paso, TX (Fort Bliss)
- > Killeen, TX (Fort Hood)
- > Tampa, FL (MacDill AFB)
- > Enterprise, AL (Fort Rucker)
- > Montgomery, AL (Maxwell-Gunter AFB)
- > Phenix City, AL (Fort Benning)
- > Pensacola, FL (Pensacola NAS/ Escambia County)
- > Abilene, TX (Dyess AFB)
- > Greater San Antonio, TX





These teams are funded through state comprehensive support plans that address educational needs for military-connected children by placing support structures in the communities and schools near military installations with high densities of military families. The goal is to provide a network of professionals, educators, and parents who have the tools necessary to enable each military-connected child to not only succeed, but thrive throughout their educational careers.

The MCEC *Parent to Parent* program gives parents resources that help them become their child's best advocate on educational and social/emotional concerns. When the parent is informed and equipped to help their student, the student will have a better chance at success.



Maintaining Routine THROUGH Challenging Times

Being a mother and a wife can be hard work at times, which can be exacerbated when part of a military family. A wounded spouse compounds those challenges. "It's sometimes hard with all the uncertainty, but having MCEC programs and materials to rely on has been a big help," according to Beatrice Munoz, a spouse of a medically retired wounded Veteran.

Beatrice has been to a number of *Parent to Parent* workshops and *Tell Me A Story* events at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas, learning strategies to help her family. "We are a busy military family and we are on the go a lot. Keeping up with homework is never easy," shared Beatrice. She attended the "Tackling Homework Hassles" workshop where

she learned about the "homework box," which has become a family staple. Many times Beatrice and her family run errands or attend appointments after school, so she keeps a homework box filled with school supplies in the car so her children can do homework on the go. Beatrice says the homework box is "just an example of the easy, important

getting a copy of the book and activities when they leave. She appreciates the chance to expose her children to literacy events and "unplug from the TV." She continues, "As a military family, with a soldier injured during combat, it is often stressful trying to juggle everything and keep a sense of normalcy for the

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tips we get from the *Parent to Parent* workshops. They also share information on local learning opportunities and how to keep our kids learning over the summer and on school breaks."

Beatrice's children enjoy the MCEC *Tell Me A Story* events and love

children. Having the tips and ideas that I have learned in the *Parent to Parent* workshops and the *Tell Me A Story* events has helped me maintain a routine with my kids and has helped them develop their love for reading and learning."