

But, We're Not Army!?

What if our family is not an Army family?

We Serve Too! is written primarily from a *child's* perspective, but the orientation is definitely Army. This book was initially written for the grandchildren of the author, Kathleen, a family living the Army life.

When we decided to publish *We Serve Too!*, we tried to rewrite it to be inclusive of all branches of the military. In the process, the passion and tenderness of the book was lost in the cumbersome nitpicking to avoid any definition. We finally decided, that men and women who were brave enough and capable enough to walk into military life and into battle with the fiercest of enemies, were probably strong enough to sustain reading a children's book with the flavor of another branch of the military.

We then pondered making an adaptive sticker packet for purchase to revise the book for the Navy, Air Force and Marines. Once again, we felt this was be patronizing and didn't give enough credit to parents. How often do we read to our children and adapt and explain along the way?

We could foresee parents reading the opening line something like this:

Original reads:

"My Daddy joined the Army; he's away from me and Mommy"

Navy parents might say,

*"My Daddy joined the Navy;
he's away from Mom and me and baby."*

Marines:

*"My Daddy joined the proud Marines;
he's away from us a lot, it seems."*

Air Force:

*"My Daddy joined the Air Force;
he's away from us a lot, of course."*

About the line, *"we'll be fine—our family's tough!"*

A Marine family we know is quite glad to say to his children, *"but Marine families are tougher, right?"* At the same time, when we asked if the Army orientation would keep him from using the book for his family, he was adamant in his response, "We're all on the same team, you know!"

Throughout the book, as you read and enjoy it with your children, feel free to adapt it in any way (make your own sticker packet if you like!*) —adapt it to your family situation. Our earnest desire is that *We Serve Too!* will be used to bring comfort to little ones and their families. We hope it brings some laughter along the way, and we know that tears may sometimes come, as well. May they be healing tears that bond your family team together.

Paula and Kathleen

*You can buy adhesive-backed paper or mailing labels at your office supply store to make your own stickers that you can print yourself, or copy on from your own artwork. The font we used in the book is Comic Sans which you can match and use to word process your own changes.

Also, in the hobby stores in the scrapbooking section, you will find a machine that can make adhesive stickers from your own drawings or cut-outs. If you know a scrapbooker, they just might make a sticker for you from your child's own artwork of your particular branch. Have a lot of fun making this book your own.

(We know... you were probably told not to mark or write in books, too. Does it help if you have permission of the authors? Here it is: "Please feel free to use this book however it most helps your family! Write in it or put stickers in it if you want. You have our permission! ☺)