



Child Youth and School Services (CYSS) Parent Participation Program

FACT

Parents are the first and most influential teachers in their child's life.

Research shows the single most important factor that determines a child's success in school and throughout life is parent or family involvement. Parental involvement refers to the amount of participation a parent (e.g. sponsor or legal guardian) has in a child's schooling.

Parents are an indispensable and a valuable resource. The Military Child Care Act requires the establishment of a parent participation program at each DoD installation. CYSS Services view parents as assets rather than liabilities because of the level of knowledge and expertise they possess. As parents, they have firsthand knowledge of their own children's strength and weakness, as patrons they have firsthand experience with CYSS Services programs.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

CYSS Services Parent Participation Program provides parents an excellent opportunity to share their unique gifts, talents and abilities while volunteering in regularly scheduled programs (e.g. full day, part day, before and/or after school). While participating in meaningful activities, parents not only positively influence the lives of military children but also CYSS Services program operations on their installations. Parent involvement is a win-win for everyone!

BENEFITS TO PARENT, CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES:

Parents:

- Cost Savings-10% reduction on one month's child care fees
- Convenient- opportunities that fit each individual family's lifestyle
- Your Voice- active in improving policies and quality programming
- Knowledge enrichment -understand learning environments

Child/Youth:

- Positive attitude and behavior
- Strengthens sense of belonging/family unit
- Higher academic achievement
- Higher graduation rates; and
- Higher enrollment in postsecondary education

CYSS Programs and Communities:

- Improves staff/parent communication and morale
- Reinforces the safety of child/youth
- Sponsorship among families
- Enhance Soldier and Family resilience and readiness

Interested parents, guardians, and military organizations (e.g. family readiness group) should contact their nearest installation's Parent Central Services office or CYSS Services Program Director. Visit <http://www.myarmyonesource.com> for additional CYSS program information.