



Exploring the wellbeing of
Army children
experiencing mobility or
parental deployment in
the pre-school year

Second Year PhD Research

Georgina Normile

Aim of the Discussion Group

- To give you as stakeholders the opportunity to help inform/shape my ongoing research.

Points to keep in mind:

- What is your understanding of the service-related factors that have an impact on pre-school service children?
- Where do you feel the gaps are in our understanding from the viewpoint of either policy or practice?
- What outcomes would you like to see from the research?

Research Summary

Exploring the wellbeing of Army children experiencing mobility or parental separation through deployment in the pre-school year (aged 3 – 4 years).

A case study of a large Army Garrison town in England – a cross section of ranks, roles and regiments.

Participants will include pre-school Army children, parents, early years practitioners and military-facing professionals.

The research aims to enhance our understanding of the factors that influence wellbeing of Army children in the pre-school year to better inform policies and practices for these children.

Existing literature

- In an educational context, wellbeing is considered to be central to early learning.
- Mobility and parental separation through deployment are the two main factors that service children may experience differently from their non-service counterparts.
- Much of the existing literature is international (especially from the USA). Even in the USA it is acknowledged that under 5s make up the greatest proportion of overall numbers of service children and yet this is the age group we know least about.
- Existing literature explores deployment significantly more than mobility.
- Contemporary US research increasingly draws on approaches that view the child as a part of wider systems such as family, early years settings and wider community.

What does wellbeing look like to you in the context of pre-school children from a service background?



What do you
feel are the
pathways by
which
parental
deployment
impacts upon
the wellbeing
of a pre-
school child?



What do you
feel are the
pathways by
which
mobility
impacts upon
the wellbeing
of a pre-
school child?



What can I
do to ensure
that this
research has
meaningful
impact for
educational
practitioners
and service
families?



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