



# Yuma Sizzle

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April 2009

LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER  
BLDG 850

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## April Testing

AFCT	6th @ 1300-1630
CLEP/DSST	1st @ 0900-1100 14th @ 0900-1100
College Exams	1st @ 0900-1200 14th @ 0900-1200
DLAB	9th @ 0900-1100
DLPT Part 1-Listening Part 2-Reading	7th @ 0830-1200 7th @ 1300-1630
Part 1-Listening Part 2-Reading	21st @ 0830-1200 21st @ 1300-1630
TABE	3rd @ 0900-1100
SAT GED Practice	15th @ 0800-1400 17th @ 0900-1130 17th @ 1300-1530

## May Testing

ACT	28th @ 0800-1300
AFCT	12th @ 1300-1630
CLEP/DSST and College Exams	6th @ 0900-1100 20th @ 0900-1100
DLAB	14th @ 0900-1100
DLPT Part 1-Listening Part 2-Reading	5th @ 0830-1200 5th @ 1300-1600
Part 1-Listening Part 2-Reading	19th @ 0830-1200 19th @ 1300-1600
TABE	1st @ 0900-1100 15th @ 0900-1100 29th @ 0900-1100

## Lifelong Learning Center's Staff

Kim Baars, M. Ed  
Education Services Officer  
(928) 269-3248

Cindy Harris, M.A.  
Education Services Specialist  
(928) 269-3589

Heather Ruppert, M. S.  
Education Services Specialist  
(928) 269-5614



## Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program



### WHAT IS THE MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM?

The Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program (MSCAAP) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program that provides financial assistance—up to \$6000—to spouses of active duty members and spouses of activated Guard and Reserve service members (deployed for a year or more) for certification, licensure, education or training in careers in high-growth, high demand occupations.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE MSCAAP?

Legal spouses of military service members with a minimum of one year remaining on Active Duty are eligible for the Program.

### HOW WILL MY ELIGIBILITY BE VERIFIED?

DEERS will be used to verify the status and eligibility for the Program based on your sponsor's social security number you enter when you create a profile.

### WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO APPLY FOR MSCAAP?

To apply for the program, you must complete an online profile and call a Military OneSource Career and Education Consultant (1-800-342-9647) to create a career plan and goal.

### IS THERE A COST?

There is no cost to participate in the MSCAAP; however, if your license, certification, credential, education or training expenses exceed the \$6000 limit, you will be responsible for paying the remaining costs. Additionally, the program does not cover expenses that are not submitted by the Payee (a government entity or government sanctioned body, school, institution, program, or agency providing certification, licensing, educational instruction, or vocational training or testing as part of a Spouse's Career Plan) as part of the instruction-related cost. Examples of non-covered expenses could include books, application fees, student activity cards, supplies, equipment to include computers and/or distance learning delivery systems, parking fees, duplicative courses or courses repeated due to previous failure, medical services, matriculation, assessment of experiential learning graduation fees, child-care, or transportation.

### ARE THERE ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS?

After enrolling in MSCAAP, you must establish a career goal and create a Career Plan. During your program, you must ensure your grades, certificates and test scores are reported in your online record. Upon completion of your certification/licensure/education/training, you must notify Military OneSource of graduation or plan completion. Finally, once you find a job, you must notify Military OneSource of your employment.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact a Military OneSource Career and Education Consultant at 1-800-342-9647 or visit their website at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

# Our Youngest Patrons: Early Childhood Literacy at the Station Library



The station library at MCAS Yuma does programming for children in our community in order to encourage use of the library as well as develop literacy and a lifelong love of reading in our patrons. We have lap times and story hours for ages birth to five years. One popular story program at the library is lap time. This program is designed for parents and caregivers and their children ages birth to three years. Together we learn about books, sing songs, act out finger plays, and play with puppets and toys. The program encourages important early childhood skills that lead to increased literacy in school-aged children.

Researchers of early literacy like those at the International Reading Association and National Association for Young Children recognize that literacy skills begin at birth. Each time parents communicate with their babies, the children experience language, and these experiences in early childhood encourage future reading skills. From birth, infants are able to distinguish all the sounds in human languages even though their speech may be limited to gurgling noises. Through communication with parents, their perceptions become limited to the native language they will grow to speak, read, and write. Early, or emergent, literacy is defined as what children know about reading before they actually read. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) of the National Institutes of Health has established six early literacy skills that help children develop the necessary skills to read. The NICHD has named these skills as print motivation, phonological awareness, vocabulary, narrative skills, print awareness, and letter knowledge.

Our lap time is an interactive program. The adults also benefit from this social time, which can build community relationships for our library and the children that we serve. The program usually lasts 45 minutes. Lap time seeks to teach parents how to incorporate early literacy skills in play while having fun with reading books. Phonological awareness, for example, is the ability to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words using activities that play with rhymes, words, sounds, and syllables. Phonemes are the smallest units constituting spoken language; English consists of about forty-one phonemes or sounds. Phonemes combine to form syllables and words. Most words consist of a blend of phonemes, such as the word *go*, which has two phonemes. In this word, two sounds are represented; the sound /g/ is represented by the letter *g*, and the sound /o/ is represented by the letter *o*. When reading to young children, parents can incorporate the recognition of phonemes. For example, parents often ask their babies, "What noise does the lion make?" The child will respond with a roar. This is one way to play with letters and the sounds that they make. Teaching children to manipulate the sounds in language helps them learn to read. We often make animal noises in Book Babies when we play with puppets or sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," which employs lots of letters and animal sounds.

Print motivation can be defined as having an interest in and an enjoyment of books. All children in lap time sit on their parents' laps, which creates a pleasant experience around reading. They learn that the library is a place where they can have time with books and fun with our staff. Young children respond to changes in the tone of voice and the rhythm of language when they are read to by adults. In lap time, children are engaged when parents ask questions and talk about the pictures in books. Our story time is meaningful in the development of print motivation because children bond with their parents or caregivers in a comfortable environment.

Print awareness is a skill imparted to children in the lap time program. This skill is the consciousness of print in the child's environment. It encompasses knowing how to handle a book and understanding how the words flow on a page. Parents, caregivers, and staff model how to hold a book for the children, showing that they should keep the right side up, start with the first page and continue to the end, and read the left page first and then the right. This skill is paired with letter knowledge, knowing that letters are different from one another and that each letter is related to a certain sound. Letter knowledge and print awareness are practiced in Book Babies when adults run fingers under the words they are reading. According to the Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children, letter knowledge seems to be the strongest indicator of reading success.

Literacy is more than just being able to read; it represents the ability to understand written text, increased writing skills, and other creative activities. Children who will become successful readers tend to exhibit age-appropriate sensory, cognitive, and social skills in the preschool ages. Lap time encourages cognitive development and socialization among the young children who attend. Through interaction and experiences, children become more adept with locomotion and engaging in imaginative play, which indirectly increases later literacy. Research clearly indicates that families and other community members are important in the effort to prevent children's reading difficulties. As librarians and youth services staff, we can provide the tools for parents to ensure they are growing literacy in their children.

*Adapted from an article by Sarah Wright, a youth services librarian at Potomac Library in Prince William County, VA*

*Originally appeared in [Virginia Libraries](#) (Vol. 54, No. 3-4), a quarterly journal published by the [Virginia Library Association](#).*

## Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 0900-2100

Friday 0900-200

Saturday 1000-1700

Sunday 1300-1700



## Spouse Education

### Opportunities Brief

A new education brief spotlighting Spouse Education Opportunities is now available! The hour-long brief will be offered in the Education Center (Bldg 850) on Wednesday April 8. There are two sessions, one during the day at 10am and an evening session at 6pm. Come learn about scholarships, spouse tuition assistance and other resources available to spouses.

Please contact Heather Ruppert at 269-5614 to register or for more information.

## GED Practice Test



The Education Center is offering service members and family members (on a space available basis) the GED Practice Test for those in need of a GED. The GED Practice Test helps familiarize the types of items you will see on the actual GED Battery test. By answering GED practice questions and getting feedback, you will develop a feel for the kinds of thinking, reading, and problem solving skills needed to pass the GED. In addition, the GED Practice Test is a strong indicator on how well you will perform in each of the five areas tested. GED study guides are available at the Station Library in building 633. The GED Practice Test will be administered on April 17 in two timed sessions. The first session will begin at 0900 and will cover reading and writing and the second session will start at 1300 and will cover math, social studies and science. The total testing time is approximately 4 and 1/2 hours. Please contact Cindy Harris at (928) 269-3589 to register.