How Many Stars in the Sky?
Written By: Lenny Hort * Illustrations By: James E. Ransome

Goal: Children will learn how to cope with the absence of a parent.

1. Show the cover of the book and ask the children to read the title.

2. Ask why there is only a father, son, and dog on the cover.

3. Read the story stopping from time-to-time to ask:

   a. Why does the boy in the story count the stars?
   b. What does his mother know all about?
   c. Where is his father?
   d. Why does the boy go outside?
   e. What keeps him from being able to count the stars?
   f. What does he do next?
   g. What does he discover as he tries to count the stars?
   h. Who comes to help him count the stars?
   i. Why can’t the boy and his father sleep?
   j. Where does the boy’s father first take him to count stars?
   k. Why is it hard to count stars in the city?
   l. Where do the boy and his father go next to count stars? Why?
   m. Why do new stars keep appearing in the sky?
   n. Where do the boy and his father finally fall asleep?
   o. When they awake in the morning, what is the only star in the sky?

4. How does counting the stars help the boy cope with his mother’s absence?

5. Is his mother coming home?

Activity:

   - Ask the children to write down ways they cope with a parent who is absent due to military service, and compile it into a booklet for use by the children when they might need it.

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