



Anchored4Life

Comes to Bailey and Branch Elementary Schools

Edwards AFB is the latest location to join the Anchored4Life (A4L) program now available at William A. Bailey and Irving L. Branch elementary schools. The framework of the program includes a peer-to-peer club that provides opportunities for students to enhance social skills, learn leadership skills, build character, improve self-esteem, and help assist students integrate into their new school and community. Youth learn transition and resiliency skills using some of the A4L Club features such as character development quotes, special kits, tours, and service projects.

One goal of the program is to teach and reinforce life skills to better connect with their peers and community during transitions. "An important aspect emphasized in the A4L program are connections", said Candace Lang, Edwards AFB School Liaison Specialist.

"All of us experience transitions or change, and it is easier to face those changes when we have positive connections with others, and that's when the team leaders come into play".

Lang explained that team leaders were trained on how to provide kits for various situations such as welcoming new students, providing deployment and welcome back kits, and moving kits for students facing these upcoming transitions. These kits include informational and comfort items such as a teddy bear named Patches, family information booklets, journals, and educational videos. There are two other specialized kits on divorce and grief that are available through the Military and Family Life Counselor at the schools.

Families that are facing these transitions are encouraged to contact their school principal and child's teacher. For more information on Anchored4Life and other youth sponsorship programs, please call Candace Lang at 661-277-2456 or e-mail 412.FSS.School.Liaison@us.af.mil