



Tell Me Why

When a parent is on temporary duty, children will have lots of questions. Here are a few common concerns, along with some language you might use in addressing them.

**When will
Daddy/Mommy be back?**

Daddy/Mommy will be done just as soon as his/her job/training is over. In the meantime, we will be phoning/video chatting every chance we get. He/she can't wait to be back home with us.

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What does TDY mean?

TDY is short for temporary duty travel (also known as "temporary duty travel" or "temporary additional duty"). Those are jobs that have to be done away from home. Sometimes it can be extra job training, or extra travel. The good thing about TDY is that it usually doesn't last a long time—though I know that every day Mommy/Daddy is away seems like a long time.

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**Why can't I go with
Mommy/Daddy?**

It's important for Mommy/Daddy to concentrate on her/his job. When she/he comes back, we'll have a lot to talk about!

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**Why doesn't Daddy/
Mommy's boss care about my
soccer/t-ball/etc. game?**

Daddy/Mommy has an important job to do. He/she is helping to protect our country and keep everyone safe. I'll come watch this game, and we'll tell Daddy/Mommy all about it. I know he/she is looking forward to watching you play as soon as he/she can.

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**Why can't Mommy/
Daddy do her/his training or
work right here?**

This is a job Mommy/Daddy can't do here. There are special equipment/supplies/people that make it necessary for her/him to travel from home.