

VFW Helps Build Playground for Military Families

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FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — The anticipation was almost too much to bear.

All that brand new playground equipment just waiting to be climbed up, slid down and played on.

The kids at the Fort Campbell Family Resource Center waited anxiously, eager faces pressed against the windows, during the playground's June 3 dedication ceremony.

Some 3,000 troops returning from war, and their families, attend reintegration sessions at the Family Resource Center every week. While couples participate, their children are cared for through the Short-Term Alternative Child Care Program.

"Before, all the children had to stay indoors because there was no safe outdoor play area here," said Michael Penney, director, Veterans of Foreign Wars National Military Services. "No fence, just grass."

But that all changed with a \$75,000 grant from VFW National Military Services, which helped bring the playground to life.

"It's important the kids get outside," said Penney. "Now, they can get some fresh air and exercise – just what kids need! It was really something to watch that first group of children rush onto the playground.

"They were yelling and laughing – it warmed our hearts. It was only fitting that we had them do the ribbon cutting."

Labeled a "boundless" playground, the new equipment ensures every child can join the fun, including those with disabilities.

"This project has been a long time coming," Penney said. "We're thrilled to be able to help military families at Fort Campbell."

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