



**Program Address and Tax ID**

**Mailing Address:**

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**808-257-2030**

**Tax I.D. Number:**

**99-0267668**

# Child & Youth Program Parent Newsletter April 2024

## Upcoming Events:

1<sup>st</sup>: April Fool's Day

15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: Spirit Week

9<sup>th</sup>: National Unicorn Day

10<sup>th</sup>: Siblings Day

22<sup>nd</sup>: Earth Day

23<sup>rd</sup>: Kindergarten Readiness Puppet Show and Parent Workshop

25<sup>th</sup>: Kindergarten Field Trip to Mokapu Elementary



**MARINE & Family**  
Child and Youth Programs

**Kulia School Age Care**

**Bldg 6753**

**Phone: 808-257-2030**

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**Kupulau CDC Bldg 6111**

**808-257-1388**

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**Laulima CDC Bldg 6782**

**808-257-2038**

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**CYP Operating Hours:  
0600-1800**



## The Month of the Military Child



April is Month of the Military Child! Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, this month celebrates military children of all ages by supporting and honoring them for the sacrifices they make.

Military children have a lot of challenges to overcome and stress to bear. Being the child of a parent in the military usually means having to deal with change on a regular basis, which can prove difficult for both younger and older children. There's frequent moves and relocations, which often means having to start a new

school, make new friends, and get accustomed to a new state or country, and perhaps even a new language. When a parent is deployed, these brave children must go months on end without one or both parents. There is also the added anxiety and concern for a parent's safety, especially if he or she is deployed to a country in turmoil.

This can be a lot for a child to take in, and by letting them know that we support them, they'll know that they are never alone in their journey as a military child. ([www.time4learning.com](http://www.time4learning.com))

Ideas to celebrate YOUR military child:

Wear purple! Spread awareness of the sacrifices military children make, and let your child know you're wearing purple in their honor.

Have a "date night"! Cook a special dinner together and get dressed up. You can even decorate to make the date more special.

Write your child a letter or draw them a picture of what they mean to you!

Simply spend time together. Even chores can be special moments when done together.



## Laulima

Thank you to those of you who attended our March PAB meeting. We hope you received some valuable information and were able to get any questions you had answered. Be on the look out for our next PAB meeting in June.

This month we are looking forward to celebrating all of our resilient military children during Month of the Military Child! We will be celebrating with a spirit week from April 15-19.



Congratulations to our staff who are celebrating their years of service with us this month!

## School Age Care

Spring Break was a success! The children enjoyed their short break from school by participating in different activities created by our Program Assistants!

This month we celebrate our military children. We have many activities planned to celebrate our military children who face many challenges and unique experiences. Please join us in celebrating this month by wearing purple on April 15th for Purple Up Day!

Reminder: If your child does not need care for the day, please contact our front desk at 808-257-2030. This ensures that all children who need care are accounted for during pick-up from Mokapu!

### Reminders:

- \* Swipe your child in / out each day.
- \* Our Military Family Life Counselor (MFLC), Ms. Julia will be rotating shifts to accommodate all centers! Thank you!
- \* Kupulau and Laulima CDC have a nursing room available for mothers to utilize-please see the front desk for more information.



## Kupulau CDC

Welcome to Mariaul Brown, our new Office Automation Clerk! We also welcome to Stephanie Edmonds, new Assistant Director! We are so happy and fortunate to have them join our team!

Thank you to all the parents who came and read a book to the children during the month of March for Read Across America Week! We had a total of 29 parents come and read books to the children. The children absolutely love when special visitors come and read books to them!

Please assist the front desk by calling and informing them of your child's absence no later than 0900.

Our next PAB meeting will be in June. Keep an eye out for the date and time to be posted at the front desk.

Our NECPA accreditation visit is April 25-26. We will keep you updated on our status.

*Special birthday greetings to all children, parents, and staff who are celebrating their special day in April.*

# What is Autism?

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood, which can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive the support and services that they need, which can lead to a quality life filled with opportunity.

## Characteristics & Diagnosis

According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-V), which is used by clinicians to diagnose autism, "core features of autism must be present in early childhood but may not fully manifest until social demands exceed the person's capacity to cope with them, and challenges may be masked by learned coping strategies".

### Autism is characterized in the DSM-V by:

Persistent differences in communication, interpersonal relationships, and social interaction across different environments

**What this can look like:** Being nonverbal or having atypical speech patterns, having trouble understanding non-verbal communication, difficulty making and keeping friends, difficulty maintaining typical back-and-forth conversations

Restricted and repetitive behavior, patterns, activities and interests

**What this can look like:** Repeating sounds or phrases (echolalia), repetitive movements, preference for sameness and difficulty with transition or routine, rigid or highly restricted and intense interests, extreme sensitivity to or significantly lower sensitivity to various sensory stimuli.

To learn more about receiving an autism diagnosis, visit the <https://www.autism-society.org/what-is/>

## Early Identification Makes a Difference

Autism impacts an individual throughout the lifespan. However, research shows that early diagnosis can lead to improved quality of life. For more information on developmental milestones, visit the CDC's "[Learn the Signs. Act Early](#)" site.

Here are some signs to look for:

- Repetition in language or movement, such as repeating the same word or sounds, hand flapping, or any repeated movement.
- Atypical nonverbal communication, including avoiding eye contact, giving few facial expressions, or having monotonous speech.
- Prefers solitary or parallel play rather than engaging in associative or cooperative play with other children.
- Extremely distressed by changes, including new foods or changes in schedule.
- Preference for predictable, structured play over spontaneous or make-believe play.
- Strong, persistent interest on specific topic, part of a toy, or item

To learn more about autism at every age, visit [our page about Autism Through the Lifespan](#).