

Suggested Uses for Audio and Video Messages

Audio

- Tell a bedtime story
 - Don't have a book? Tell childhood classics – The 3 Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, or Little Red Riding Hood
 - Change the names of the characters in classic fairytales to the names of your children
 - Make up a story
- Sing "Happy Birthday"
 - Go for a private solo or get your whole unit to join in
 - Have the kids sing Happy Birthday
 - Have the kids read a handmade card
- Explain events of the day
 - Did the kids say or do something funny? Share it!
 - Did something interesting happen in the barracks? Talk about it.
- Tell jokes
 - Don't forget - your kids might be listening
- Say goodnight
- Ask questions
 - How did "Johnnie's" Science test go?
- Send reminders of upcoming events
 - Mom's birthday
 - Anniversary
 - Date you're coming home
- Give ideas for messages you would like to receive

Video

- Read a bedtime story
 - When reading a story, don't forget to show the pictures to the camera
 - Don't have a book? Tell childhood classics – The 3 Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, or Little Red Riding Hood
 - Change the names of the characters in classic fairytales to the names of your children
 - Make up a story
- Sing "Happy Birthday"
 - Go for a private solo or get your whole unit to join in
 - Have the kids sing Happy Birthday
 - Have the kids read a handmade card and show it to the camera
- Show off a report card
 - Hold up to camera and have children brag about their hard work.
- Child milestones
 - 1st steps
 - 1st tooth or a new "lost" tooth
 - Show off a dance routine that is going to be performed at a dance recital, costume and all
- Ask questions
 - How did "Johnnie's" Science test go?
- Send reminders of upcoming events
 - Mom's birthday
 - Anniversary
 - Date you're coming home
- Give ideas for messages you would like to receive
- Good wishes
 - Video various family members sending best wishes
 - Film a section of a family reunion

Useful Tips

- Look directly into the camera NOT at your image on the screen, this will look as though you are looking down and your eyes will not be visible.
- Speak loudly enough to be picked up by the microphone
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Good to know – you do not have to have an account to receive messages