

## “We’ve Got Your Back” Hoodie



This project was a lot of fun! As we were getting ready for my husband's 4th deployment I wanted to give our daughter something comforting that she could take with her anywhere. I settled on a hoodie and asked my husband to go pick it out. (I did ask him to get one a little too big so she could wear it for a while). We wanted to surround her with reminders of the people who care about her and support her. So we decided to decorate the inside of the hoodie. On the inside back I traced my husband's hands with permanent marker, and he wrote a message to her in the hands. Then I traced the hands and the message in glow-in-the-dark t-shirt paint. Then I did my hand prints in glow-in-the-dark paint (I did have rubber gloves on). I had my thumbs touch, and my pointer fingers touch, so that the shape of a heart was made (and I outlined it in pink glow-in-the-dark t-shirt paint), and I wrote a few messages of support too.

Not shown in these pictures are the added names of our family members on the inside back of the hoodie. We also wrote all the names of all the people who support her on the inside front part of the hoodie on the panels of cloth along the zipper. We put the names of her supporters at school in pink and green paint, all her supporters from her church in yellow, and so on. Each group she is involved in had their own color and were listed together. We also put the date and the deployment # as well. The whole inside of the hoodie filled up pretty fast and we gave it to her a few days before her dad left for his deployment. She loved it and wore it for 2 days straight. I also drape it over the rocking chair in her room when she takes it off so that at night when her light is turned off she can see the names of everyone who loves her, and will help her, glowing comfortingly in the dark. That has been very helpful on tough days to help her focus on the positive, and it seems to help her fall asleep when she thinks about all those people who are there for her. \*I do wash it on cold on a gentle cycle, and I definitely air dry it (don't put it in the dryer). Also don't be surprised if people are very touched or moved by having their name in your child's hoodie. :)

Have fun and enjoy!

~A Northside ISD Military Wife

