



Big Leaf Foundation  
**Keep Talking**

ENGLISH | MUSIC | CREATIVITY | WELL BEING

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## INFORMATION FOR KEY WORKERS AND CARERS OUTSIDE OF SURREY

### WHAT IS THE KEEP TALKING PROJECT?

Keep Talking has been created in response to the Coronavirus crisis in the UK, and stems from our concerns about the potential impact of enforced isolation on the physical and mental wellbeing of displaced young people in Surrey. We're conscious of the disruption to education and routines, increased reliance on online interaction, and heightened stress and anxiety compounded by uncertainty, boredom and loneliness.

Our Keep Talking project is a growing collection of online activities, designed particularly for displaced young people in lockdown. The focus of the project is on maintaining a positive outlook through creative challenges, English development and the chance to keep talking, regularly, safely and with support.

To do this, we've teamed up with some of our trusted project partners to provide a wide selection of activities, including creative arts, craft and cartooning; photography; fitness and mindfulness; and English language.

### HOW TO USE IT

The Keep Talking resources page on our website provides links to specially created online video content and each video is accompanied by two language worksheets (PDFs) with explanations of new words, additional information, questions and exercises (answers supplied).

The language worksheets come in two levels:

- First steps: suitable for people at the beginning of the English language journey (Entry Level 1 & 2)
- Challenge level: suitable for people who have been studying English for a while (Entry Level 3 & above)

### HOW TO SUPPORT IT

If you are able to support your young person in accessing a printed copy of the language sheets, this would be the best way for them to study, as smartphones can make language study difficult.

### MATERIALS

We have a supply of materials and musical instruments to accompany this project for displaced young people living in Surrey. If you/the young person are resident outside of Surrey, we regret that we are not able to send these resources to you, but we will happily tell you what they are and how / where we have sourced them. Please email [contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk](mailto:contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk) if you would like this information.

### ENGAGEMENT

One of our main aims of this project is to encourage everyone to keep talking and we very much want young people living in Surrey to engage with us directly and independently. Unfortunately, we don't have the

capacity to directly engage and support young people living outside of Surrey. But we would encourage organisations using our Keep Talking resources with their beneficiaries to look for opportunities for their young people to share their work with them – this might include creating a platform for uploading pictures of their creations and participating in online English conversation practice with your team members (keeping in mind appropriate safeguarding procedures).

Similarly, we are also putting things in place to ensure that good participation, achievement and engagement is formally recognised and rewarded – which might include, among other things, providing certificates of achievement.

We're happy to share our plans for engagement and acknowledgement with organisations who would like to know more.

If you have any further questions about this project or would like to get in touch with one of the team, please email [contact@bigleafoundation.org.uk](mailto:contact@bigleafoundation.org.uk)