



INFORMATION FOR KEY WORKERS AND CARERS IN 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 a smartphone screen size can make language study difficult.

MATERIALS

We have a limited supply of materials and musical instruments to accompany this project and these can be posted / delivered to you. If you work with a displaced young person living in Surrey who would like to participate in the Music Connects strand of the project, please complete the sign-up form (including address details) on our website at www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/keep-talking-registration-form

We also have a number of activity packs containing simple art and craft materials and some other activity ideas which we can also post /deliver to young people in Surrey. Please use the same [sign-up form](#) and select 'activity pack' from the options.

ENGAGEMENT

Our main focus for this project is to encourage everyone to keep talking. Therefore, we very much want young people living in Surrey to engage with us directly and independently. This might include:

- uploading pictures of their creations onto our private (Surrey only) Instagram page;
- participating in online English conversation practice with members of our team as part of our check in service;
- sending language questions to the Big Leaf team through WhatsApp for us to then focus on during our video lessons; and/or
- participating in a one-to-one music lesson with Surrey Arts tutors.

In order for the young people to engage with us directly, **we need the carers consent**, which you can provide by filling in our online sign-up form and ticking the 'consent for direct engagement' option.

Please note: we have developed an Interim Safeguarding Policy for this project which is available upon request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We're keen to acknowledge participation, effort and achievement through this project and as such, any displaced young person in Surrey who provides evidence of participation (e.g. by sharing their work with us, joining in online, recording videos of their progress etc.) will be formally acknowledged at the end of the project.

If you have any further questions about this project or would like to get in touch with one of the team, please email contact@bigleaffoundation.org.uk