

## SPOKEN ENGLISH – CALL CONTENT GUIDELINES

### What is this about?

This is a Spoken English confidence building program led by Volunteers who have offered to speak with children between the ages of 13-15- ( grade 8-10)

### Who are the children?

Children come from under served communities where their mother tongue is usually Tamil. Their familiarity to English is limited to what they learn at school as a subject

The call duration will be about an hour over one session a week for about 15 weeks. This is minimum. Volunteers and the child may mutually decide to increase the frequency .

The one hour call may also be split up into two half an hour sessions

### Call Guidelines – General

Please keep the conversation light-hearted and natural . The idea is to mainly focus on topics of general interest and to encourage them to communicate in English

- 1.Please do not ask too many personal questions and also refrain from sharing personal information. You will be the best judge of the conversation
- 2.Please tell the child politely but firmly that you are unable to answer /respond if you cannot to a specific query. The child will also be given the same guideline
- 3.Please do not make any commitments of any other form of help without checking back with the school/NGO
- 4.If you perceive any misconduct please hang up immediately and flag the same to the school/ NGO. The child will also be given the same instructions
- 5.Please **do NOT** attempt to resolve any other problems that the child may share including doubts in other subjects. Check back with the school/NGO before offering help. We must not get in the way of the methods being used by the teachers at school to teach . This will confuse the child.
- 6.Refrain from topics that maybe provocative in nature and try and follow the curriculum guidelines to the extent possible.
- 7.Do not be judgmental or critical.
- 8.Respect the child s pace of learning as you would your own.
9. **Above all be empathetic** . The children come from a very challenging background in which basic necessities to survive are almost a luxury so let's be mindful about that.

## Call content Guidelines

For every question you ask the kid please make sure you share the answer about yourself as well. Speaking in English and listening to people talk in English collectively helps improve children's skills.

### First 30 mins you can pick from the topics below

Week	TOPIC	DISCUSSION POINTS	ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT CLASS
1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-introduction</li><li>• What is your name and how do you spell that?</li><li>• Where are you from?</li><li>• When were you born? When is your birthday?</li><li>• What languages do you speak?</li><li>• What do/did you study?</li><li>• Are you working? If yes-what do you do?</li></ul>	What are your strengths / positive things about yourself :)
2.	Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is your favorite food and why?</li><li>• What is your least favorite food and why?</li><li>• Have you cooked any meal before?</li></ul>	
3.	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whom do you live with ? ( Based on the reply you can ask the next questions as some kids might not be living with their family )</li><li>• How many siblings do you have?</li><li>• What are their names and how old are they?</li><li>• What do they do?</li><li>• Where are your parents originally from?</li><li>• Who are your extended family members? (cousins, aunts, uncles etc.)</li></ul>	What do you like to do over the weekends?

4.	Other activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What hobbies do you have? Or Activities on the weekend</li> <li>• What do you like about the activities you do?</li> <li>• Is there anybody in your family you share the activities with?</li> <li>• Do you like to play a sport ?</li> <li>• Whats your fav part time?</li> </ul>	Which places would you recommend to visit in your city?
5.	Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What area do you live in ?</li> <li>• What are some of the popular shops/ streets in the area</li> <li>• Is there any place of significance in and around your area</li> </ul>	Describe the beach in Chennai
6.	Travel / Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you travel to get to school?</li> <li>• How long does it take you to get to school?</li> <li>• What other types of transportation have you used?</li> <li>• How often do you use public transport?</li> <li>• Where have you travelled to?</li> </ul>	Describe your favorite movie.
7.	Movies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your favourite type of movie and why?</li> <li>• Do you go to the cinema to watch a movie?</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	Other parts of India
8.	Other parts of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you name the 3 other states in India</li> <li>• Describe what you know about these states</li> <li>• What are the seasons /weather in these areas? Is the same as Chennai you think? why?</li> <li>• What is the weather outside today?</li> <li>• How can the weather affect your feelings?</li> <li>• What kind of weather is your favorite and why?</li> </ul>	What is your favorite festival and how do you celebrate?
9	Festivals you celebrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the festivals you celebrate at home?</li> <li>• Which is your favourite festival?</li> <li>• What special dishes are made during this festival ?</li> <li>• How does the neighbourhood celebrate the festival?</li> </ul>	

## **Next 30 mins**

1) About 10 mins

Describe a day in your life in this past week !

( Starting from when you woke up until the time you fall asleep )

First the volunteer describes the day !

Then the child describes the day !

2) About next 10 mins

**GAME TIME** : Be it an adult or a child, playing a game is always exciting !

**Week 1 game is called “The Imitation Game”**

This technique will help the children to enhance their pronunciation skills :)

Rules are very simple -

The child repeats after you. Understand the pace and break down the sentences below accordingly. Also at any point if the child doesn't understand the meaning of a word please define it.

Short Story -

**This story is about a Critically endangered parrot called kākāpō - also the word's fattest parrot !**

Who doesn't love a cute fat parrot ?

The kākāpō is a flightless species of parrot native to New Zealand. Though it once was one of New Zealand's most abundant animals, heavy hunting reduced its numbers to just 147 living adults today.

The nocturnal, flightless parrot is one of New Zealanders' favourite birds, and is known for its charismatic nature and owl-like face.

This year, however, the kākāpō had a record breaking breeding season with 60 more chicks expected to make it to adulthood, nearly double the previous record!

The chicks will be raised in predator-free sanctuaries to give them the best chance of survival.

Species like these make protecting our forests so rewarding. Healthier habitats means more chubby parrots!

3) At the end of every session let's teach them one word and their homework would be to try to use the word in a sentence when they talk to their friends/teachers in the school and make a note of how many times did they use it.

Word of this week -

abandon - noun

Meaning - complete lack of inhibition or restraint.