

# Talking Guide for Working with TCKs and ATCKs

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1. Where all did you grow up?
2. Did you have a caregiver, amah, or nanny in any location you lived?
3. What language did you speak in your home? Did you speak a different language with your friends? With your caregiver?
4. How many languages do you speak fluently?
5. How did you find out you were leaving each time?
  - a. How long did you have before the move?
  - b. Were you able to say Goodbye to people who were important to you?
  - c. Were you able to say Goodbye to places, events, and animals that were important to you?
6. Where did you go to school in each of these countries?
  - a. Types of schools
  - b. Where were they?
  - c. How many students were there?
  - d. Boarding (stay there or with a family) or day or home?
  - e. Who ran it?
  - f. Language spoken in class? Language in textbooks? Language you spoke with your friends?
  - g. How was it different from or the same as other schools you attended?
  - h. How often did you return to your passport country for school? How did it differ or how was it the same as other schools you attended?
  - i. Who were you closest to at school?
7. How did you feel about your school experiences?
  - a. What did you love about them? Do you have a funny story or favorite story?
  - b. What were your biggest challenges? Can you tell me about a particularly challenging experience?
8. What kind of work did your parents do overseas?
  - a. What organization did they work with or for?
  - b. What sector was it? (missionary, diplomat, military, etc.)
9. How would you describe your parents’ relationship with their employer (the international agency that sent them overseas)?
  - a. Did they talk about their company/agency much in your presence?
  - b. What were their feelings about their employer?

10. How often was your parent (or were your parents) gone from home?
  - a. How did the family roles change when your parent(s) left?
  - b. How hard was this emotionally on each family member?
  - c. Who was your caretaker when your parent(s) was/were gone?
11. Explain any ways in which your parents' work impacted you and your siblings.
  - a. Were you or your parents ever in danger?
  - b. Were you or your parents ever victims of a violent crime such as rape, kidnapping, or armed robbery?
12. Were you closer to your mother or to your father growing up? Why?
13. Do your parents still work overseas?
  - a. If not, when and why did they return to their home country?
  - b. Was this due to the client's (or sibling's) behavior or maladjustment?
14. How often did you return to your passport country?
  - a. How long did you stay?
  - b. Where did you stay in your "home country"?
  - c. What schooling did you have in your "home country"?
15. If they are wearing something that is typical of another culture, ask:
  - a. I love your bracelet/necklace. Does it have a story?
  - b. Are you wearing anything from your favorite or "home" country?
16. What type of friends are you attracted to since you left your passport country?
17. What would you like to hire me to do for you? What would you hope I could do for you?