



Derby City Council

Voice of the Child ...  
so what difference will it make?

# 3 Islands

Children 0-5 with Special Educational  
Needs and Disabilities

**Name** ..... **Age**.....

**Today's Date** .....



# Guidance for Practitioners

## 3 Islands

### Purpose

- To enable the child to have a voice which is listened to and acted upon.
- To enable the parent/carer to give their view on the support they receive.
- To enable the parent/carer to identify what help they would like for their child and who from.
- To enable the parent/carer to think about what their child wants and what they don't want.
- To enable the parent/carer to give their views on actions for change for their child.
- To enable the parent/carer to review what has worked or not worked for their child.
- To improve outcomes and evidence what listening to the child and parent/carer has made.

### Overall Guidance

- This is a safeguarding tool to help the practitioner to understand the child's relationships with others, their wishes and desires and identify any potential risks.
- You are free of course to use this tool flexibly to meet the needs of the individual child for example using a large piece of paper and coloured pens, photographs, toys.
- This tool can be used to explore the child's relationship with people, animals, places or objects (for example: toy, comfort blanket). If you already know the child or young person you can explore whether any changes have happened with people, animals, places or objects.
- If you already have concerns as a practitioner for example: domestic violence you can use this tool to explore the child's views or concerns.

### Action Plan and Review

- The parents/carers [with the support of the practitioner] should complete the action plan to identify the support they feel they may need. Practitioners should ensure their words are recorded and work progresses at a pace suitable to each individual child or young person and set a date to review progress.
- The parents/carers with the support of the practitioner should complete the review form recording the child or young person's words or actions.
- The action plan and review should be used in line with other plan processes as appropriate, for example Team Around the Family [TAF], Children in Need [CIN] Reviews and Child Protection Reviews. This tool should contribute to the overall plan for the child.



## **Outcomes**

- The three islands technique helps gain insight in to a child's life and relationships with others, through observation and discussion with those that know the child best.

## **References**

Developed by Kate Iwi, young people's services officer at charity RESPECT, UK.

# Guidance

## What resources do I need?

- Worksheet 1 – 3 islands or Worksheet 2, 3, 4, 5,6
- Conversation summary
- Appendix 1 – Communication in Print or Visual Aids
- Action Plan and Review
- Photos/Pictures/Symbols
- Pens, crayons, paint
- Paper

## What I do?

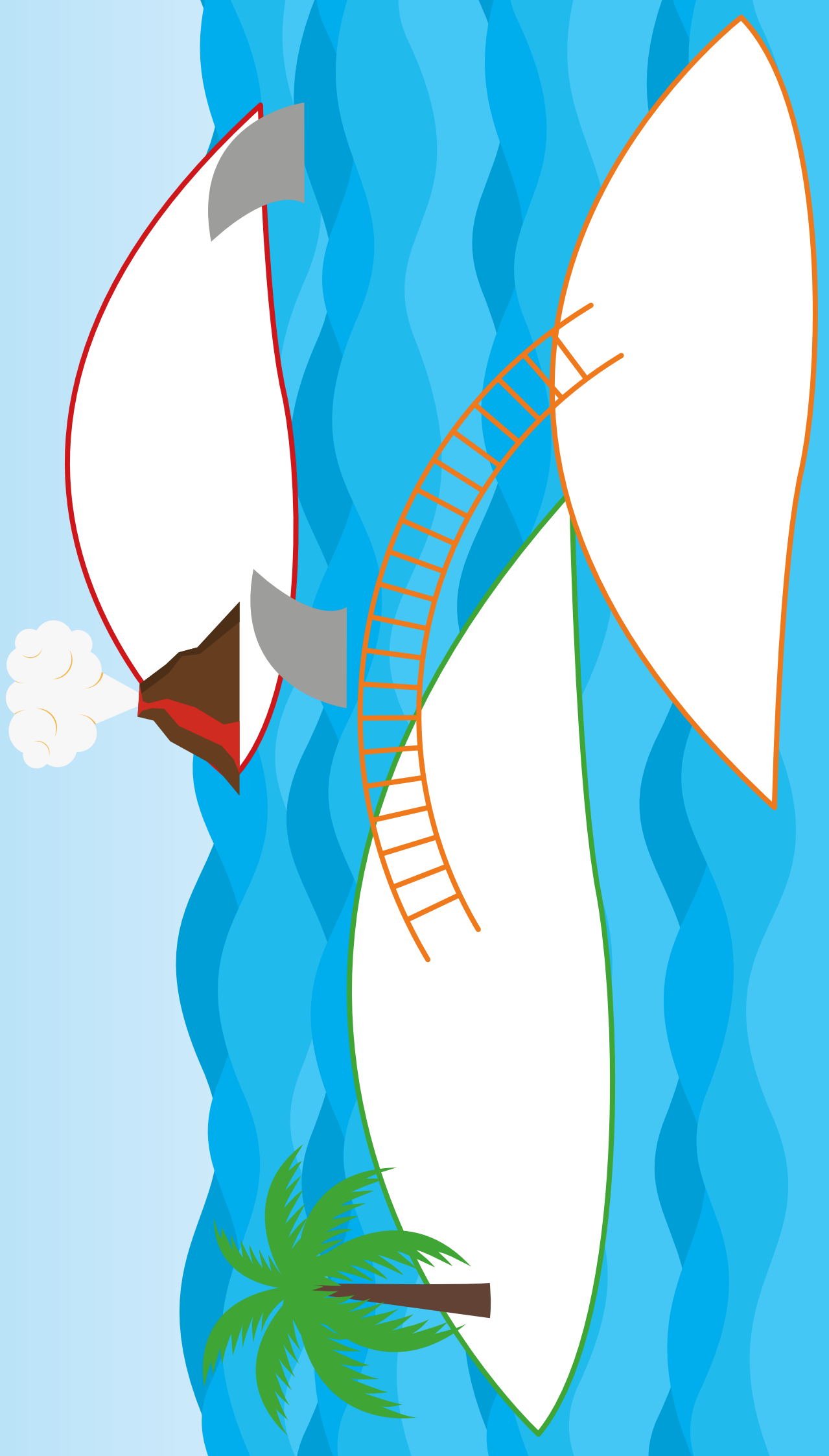
If you use worksheet one:

- the green island is where the child wants to be and they can put anything and anyone they would like on their island with them.
- the orange island with the bridge to the green island is the place where the child would like to be sometimes and can move across by the bridge. It also could be a place for visitors who can come over the bridge to their green island or it could be to have objects that they could have sometimes.
- the red island with the shark next to it is a place where the child can put people, places and objects that they do not want to be part of their lives.
- A discussion needs to take place with the child to explore the reasons for their choices and decisions. If the child or young person is not cognitively able then the discussion needs to take place with parent/carer or key worker who knows them best.
- The parent or carer should fill the conversation summary sheet in - this should be recorded that this is their view and not that of the child.

## \*Important to note

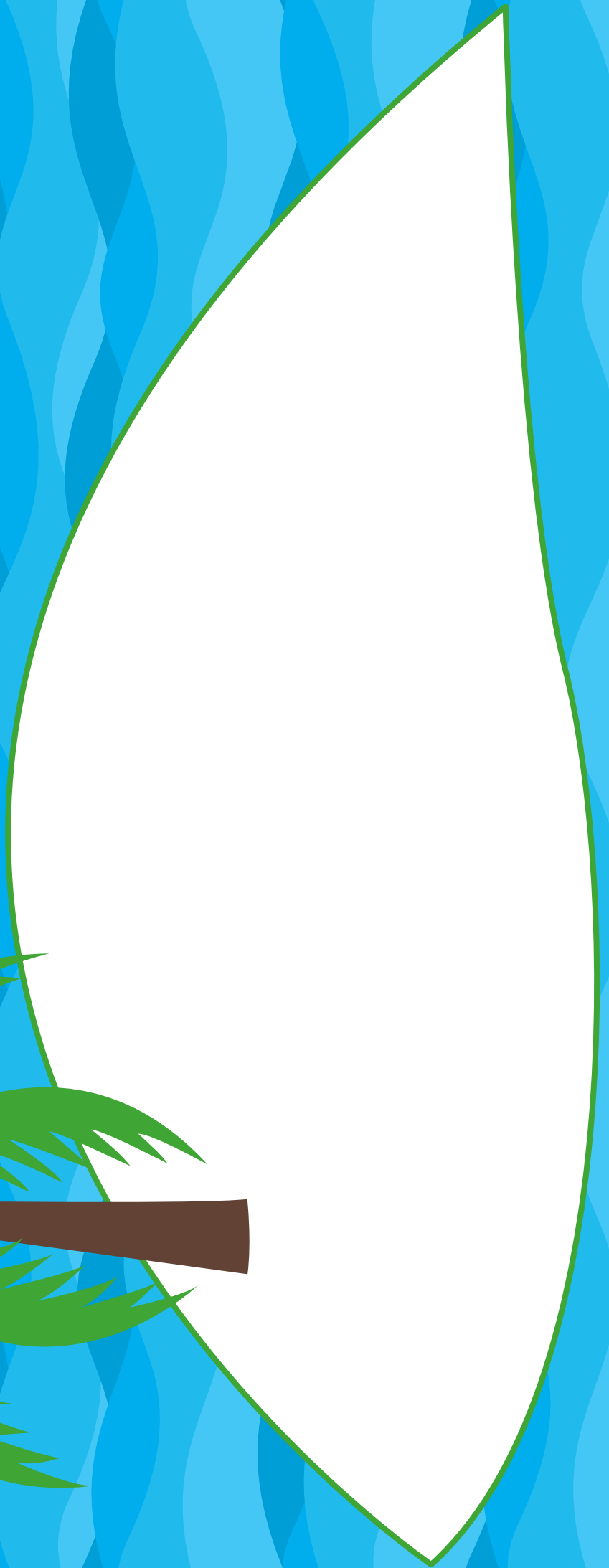
- Avoid interpreting what the child expresses too literally. For example, if they draw a picture of a man and a woman fighting, this would not necessarily mean they have experienced domestic abuse. The 3 islands are a way for the child to express an emotional state or process something they have seen or experienced.



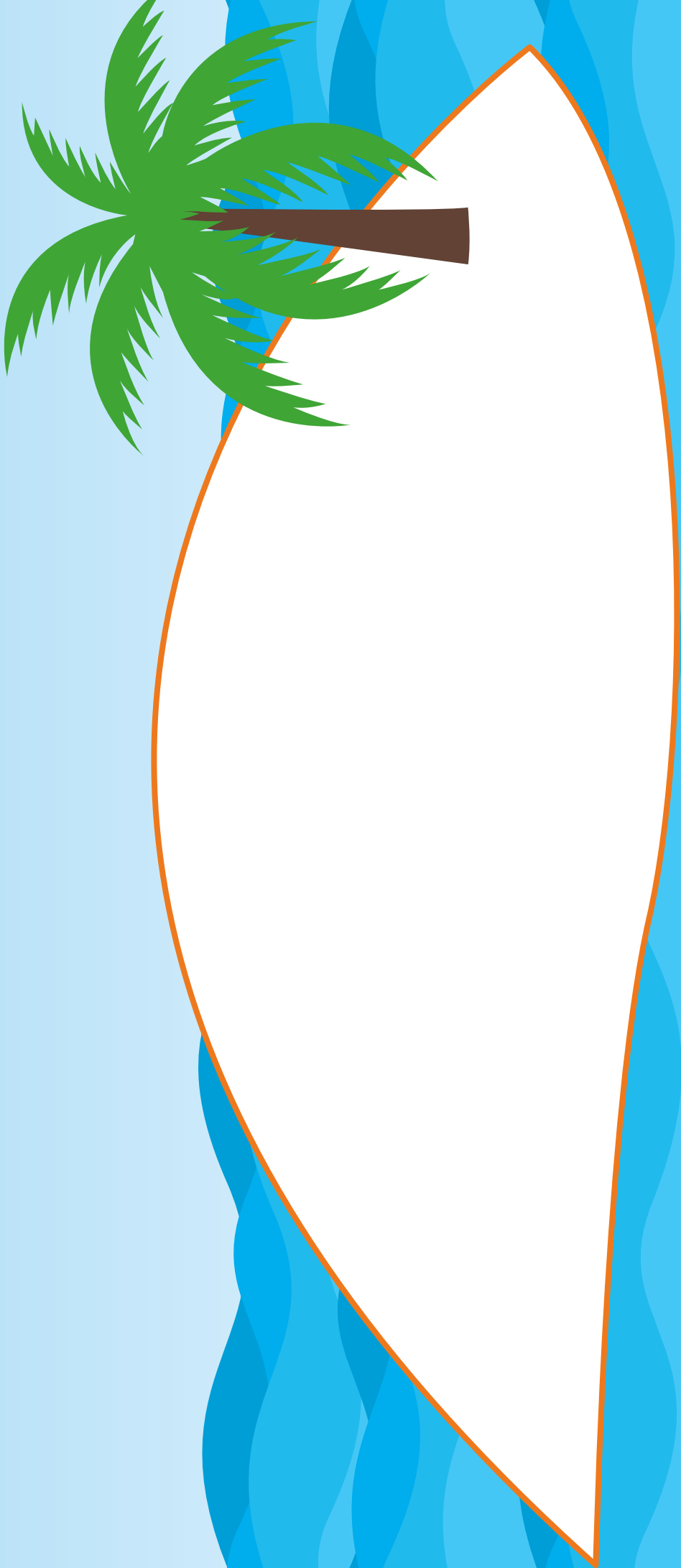




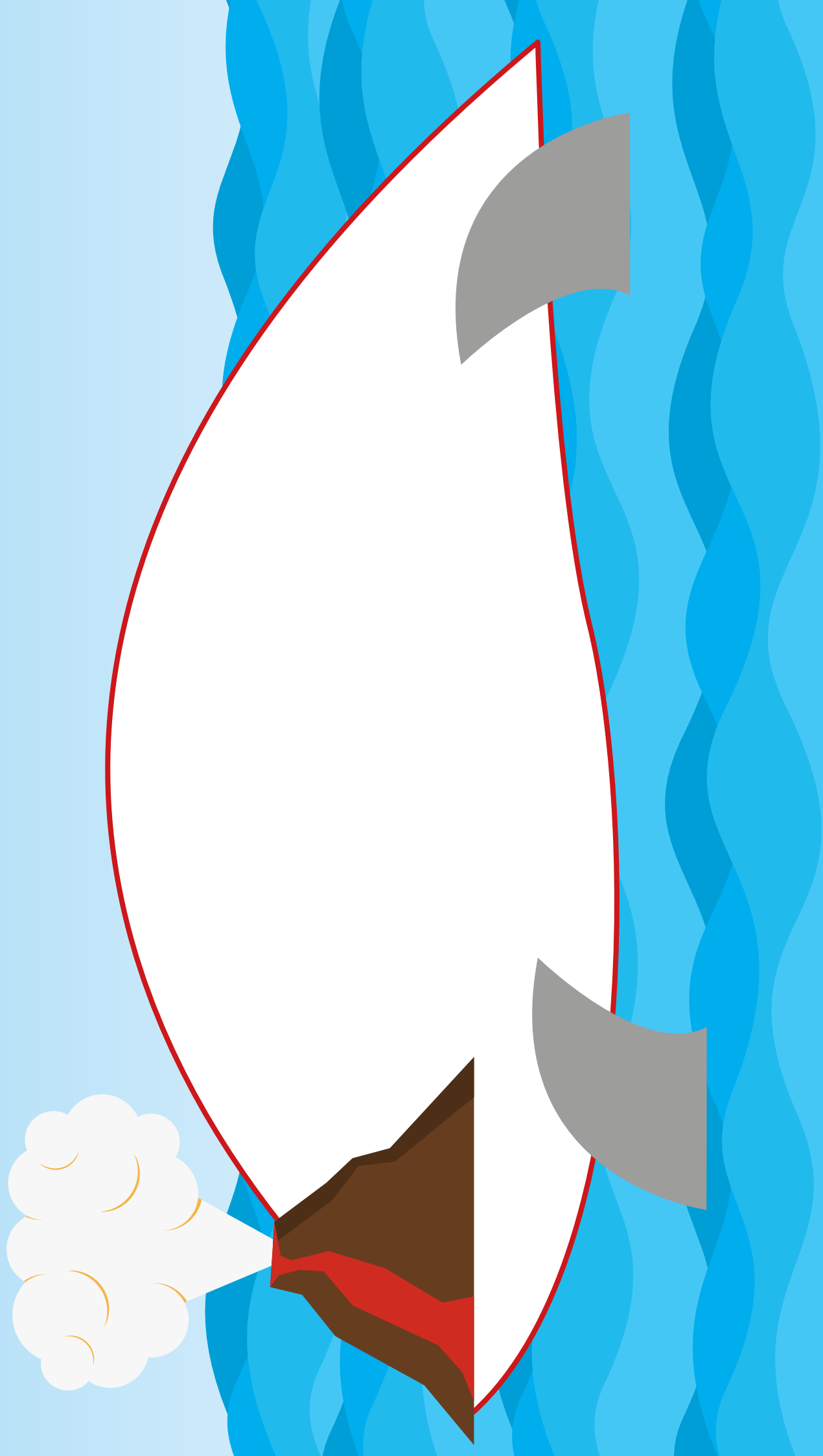














# Conversation Summary

**Island of what you want**  
(anything you want)

**Island of what you sometimes want**  
(anything you sometimes want... but not all the time)

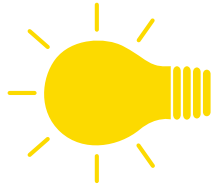
**Island of what you do not want**  
(anything you want to be far away from you and never see again)

Date .....





# Action Plan



Name .....

Date .....

What's going to help you?	How is it going to help you?	Who is going to help you?	When would you like it to start?
What else might help?			

# Review



Name .....

Date .....

How much has it helped you?

A lot

A little

Not at all

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