



## Newsletter for English Teachers

OCTOBER 2021  
VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 1



STAY UP TO DATE



Dear English Teachers,

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter for this school year. English as a school discipline forms the basis for quality employment, academic studies, tourism, personal development and in addition serves as a catalyst for social mobility. English teachers are vital in helping our students reach these goals through instruction, practice, and the assessment of English skills.

The Ministry of Education has recently published Bagrut data and statistics from 2020. There is a constant increase in the number of students taking the 5-point exam (from 32% in 2016 to 41.5% in 2020). In addition, there has been an increase in the number of students who have taken the Bagrut in English as well as the number of 3 pointers. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the English teacher community for these impressive results. Over the past five years, we have put significant efforts into encouraging and practicing speaking skills and learning vocabulary. This could not have happened without your dedication and commitment to students' success.

Let's continue aiming high to open doors in the future for academic studies and employment for our students.

We can do it!

Best wishes,

Dr. Tziona Levi,

Chief Inspector of English



## STAY UP TO DATE HAS MOVED TO THE PORTAL

- Watch this video for a detailed explanation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtZA2N5ksY>
- Click on this link to enter the Portal Mini Competition  
<https://forms.gle/aS6kcWimxqerTJRV7>

Each Spread the Word bulletin will feature the first five winners' names and school details.

This month's question...

What was posted on the 3rd of August 2021 on the Portal Site?

(Clue) Look in "What's New".

[Click here to answer](#). Good Luck

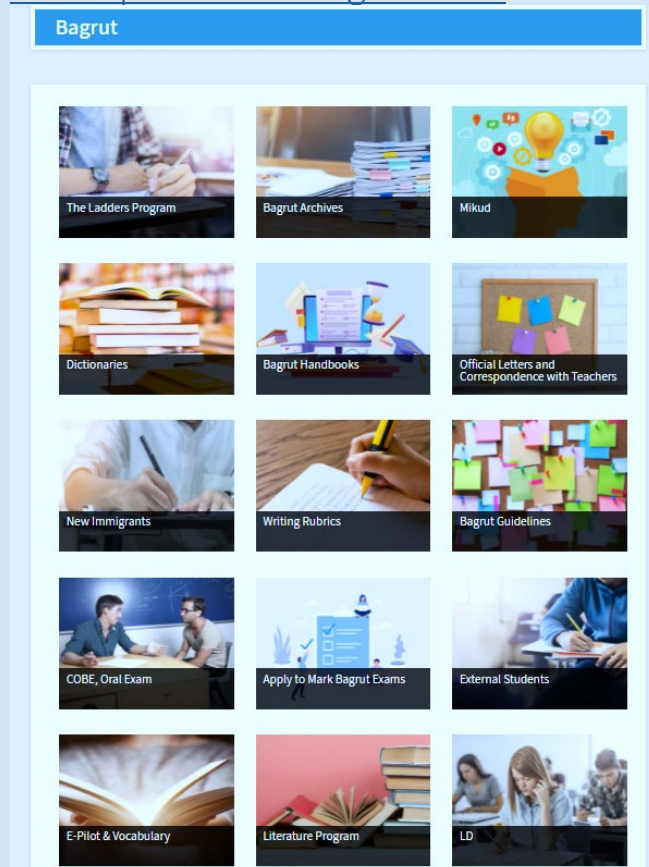
Stay up to date with the new portal. Please note: When you search for "stay up to date" in Google you will be redirected to the portal.

All the material from the Stay Up To Date site can be found under each of the Elementary, Junior High and High school sections under English Pedagogy. All updates are under שולחן המפגם



## Bagrut Updates

You can read about all the Bagrut updates on the portal under high school.



## Module E:

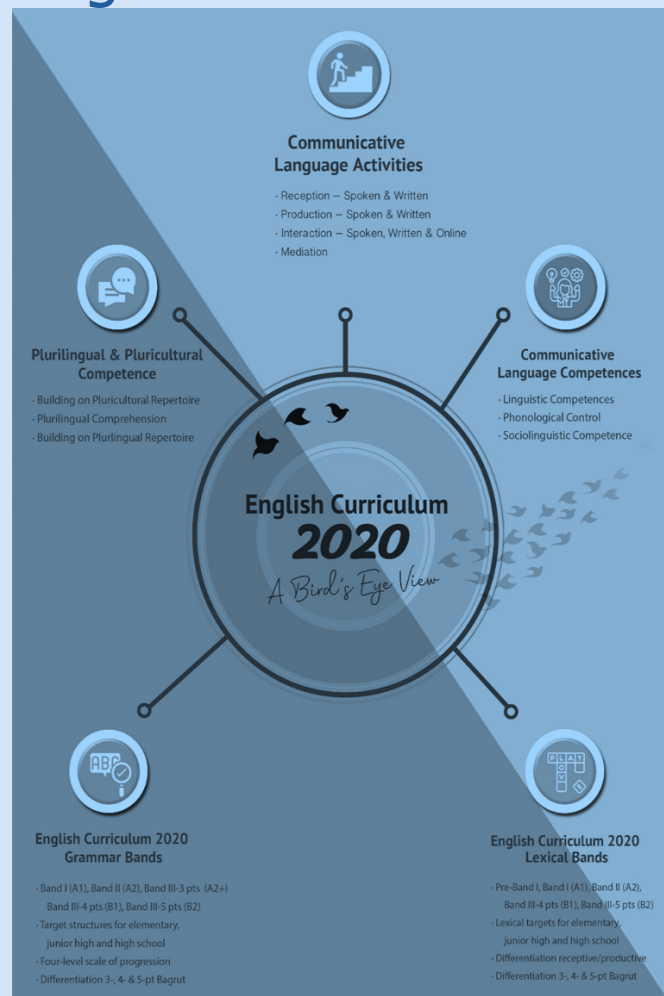
Students starting 10th grade this year will be required to take the new format of Module E exam starting Summer 2023.

The lexical items required for the 2022 exams remain as in 2021, and include Band I; Band II; and the 400 words / chunks from Band III. Additional words will be added during the year for 2023-24.

IMPORTANT: All schools who wish to participate in the pilot should register - even if they did the pilot last year. [Register here.](#)

[For more information click here.](#)

# English Curriculum



The fully updated CEFR aligned [English Curriculum 2020](#)

## The Can-do statements

pre A1	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>
A1	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>
A2	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>
B1	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>
B2	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>
All levels	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>

## Lexical Bands

Band I	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>	<a href="#">Excel</a>
Band II	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>	<a href="#">Excel</a>
Band III	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Word</a>	<a href="#">Excel</a>

## Grammar Bands

Band I	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Excel</a>
Band II	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Excel</a>
Band III	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<a href="#">Excel</a>

Meet Ellyn Marciano  
National Counselor for the C.O.B.E.,  
Senior Bagrut Marker, High School Teacher

I am located in the Haifa District but available to all teachers, coordinators, counselors and inspectors in all districts (f2f, chat or zoom).

Please be in touch with any questions or concerns or to arrange for meetings about teaching oral proficiency and preparing your students for the oral exam. Send me email anytime, or call on Tuesdays between 9:00 to 21:00. (You are welcome to call any day between 9:00-21:00 and leave a whatsapp message if I'm unavailable).

[ellynmarc@gmail.com](mailto:ellynmarc@gmail.com)  
050-5917625

For official, updated information, please [visit the ministry site](#).

[Click here to go directly to the COBE page where you will find updated information and resources](#).

Good Luck! I look forward to working with you.



Recommended Teaching Resources and Materials for Distance Teaching - [Mikud for Junior High](#) and [Mikud for High School](#)

## Teaching Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



A message from Naomi Epstein,  
National Counselor for Teaching  
English to Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Students:

It has come to my attention that some teachers in junior high schools are no longer permitting their Deaf/hard-of-hearing students to use an electronic dictionary on classroom exams.

The Deaf/hard of hearing students who are eligible for all accommodations are permitted to use an electronic dictionary on exams in junior high school, high school AND on the new Module E exam.

Please make sure that the teachers on your staff receive this information.

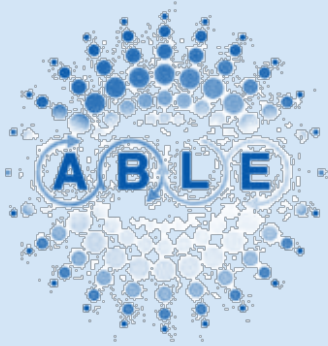
If you have any questions regarding teaching English to Deaf/hard-of-hearing students, we are here to help:

Francine Widerker - Counselor for Haifa Region and The North  
[francinewiderker@gmail.com](mailto:francinewiderker@gmail.com)

Naomi Epstein - National Counselor  
[naomi.shema@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.shema@gmail.com)

Yours,

Naomi Epstein



## The ABLE Kit: changes and adaptations

The ABLE KIT was designed to assess and diagnose basic reading skills and build intervention programs based on the results of mapping students specific skills.

As of the 2021-2022 school year, the ABLE KIT is digitalized and available to all elementary school teachers on the MOE moodle. It will no longer be sent to elementary schools throughout the country.

The kit comprises two sections:

The screening tool- to be administered to the whole class at the end of 4th grade or during the beginning months of 5th grade.

The diagnostic tool—to be administered, following the screening tool, to those students who received low scores on sections of the screening tool, or those students who have inconsistent scores.

The digitalized ABLE kit is available on the MOE moodle. [Find out more by clicking here.](#)

Here are directions for access and use.  
[How to Access the Able Kit \(slides 4-7\)](#)

### How to Access the ABLE Kit

1. היכנסו לדף "למידה דיגיטלית בבית הספר":  
 أدخلوا إلى صفحة "التعلم الرقمي في المدرسة"  
<https://edu.gov.il/tech/mbi>
2. בחרו 'כניסה לכיתות א'-ו' במסגרת הראשונה(מרחבי למידה כיתתיים)  
 اختاروا "ندخل إلى الصفوف من الأول إلى السادس" في الإطار الأول (مساحات التعلم الصفية)

מרחבי למידה  
כיתתיים

כניסה לכיתות א'-ו'  
כניסה לכיתות ז'-יב'

(See this PDF with screenshots)

The teacher's guide includes copies of the screening and diagnostic tool, as well as important information about the teaching of reading. [Click here to access.](#)

For technical questions about the digitalized ABLE Kit please contact National Counselor: Sigalit Arditi at [sigarditi@gmail.com](mailto:sigarditi@gmail.com)

We are also very happy to announce that the screening tool, has been adapted for the Haredi sector and is now available in a paper version ONLY. Please contact Ruth Elitzur the inspector for English in the Haredi Sector, at <mailto:rutheli@education.gov.il> if you are interested in using this version.

For Pedagogical questions about the ABLE kit, administration, diagnostic tool and result analysis, please feel free to contact Aharon Gvanyahu at: <mailto:gvarياهو@gmail.com>  
 Cellphone: 054-281-8878.



## New from the WhatsApp Project:

This online unit is about how students can wake up again after a vacation. [Click here to access.](#)

All the texts are on the [Facebook page](#) of the project and you are welcome to leave comments and share ideas under the relevant texts





English teachers in Technical Centers and Miftanim are invited to check out what the Shachar department for at-risk students in the MOE has to offer.

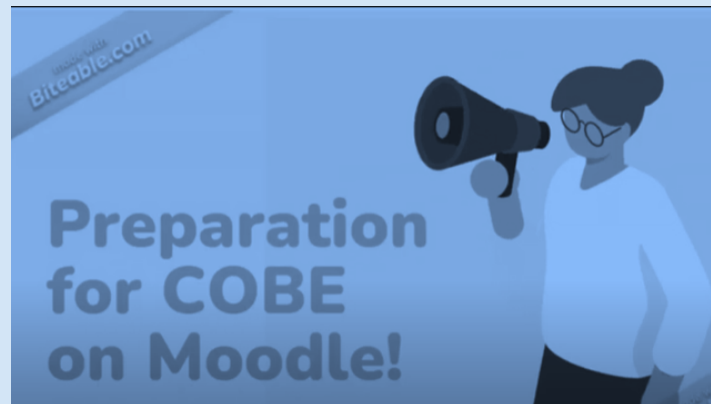
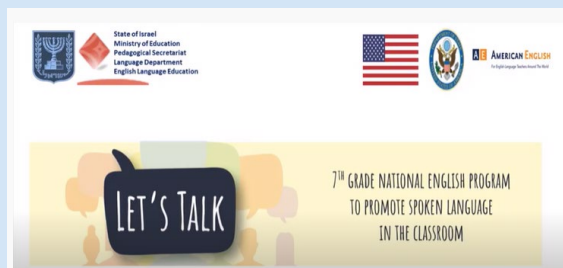
We are here to support you as you face tasks and demands that might be challenging while teaching your 'at promise' students.

Visit my website: [english4atpromise](http://english4atpromise)

Lucy Fried  
[lucyfr@education.gov.il](mailto:lucyfr@education.gov.il)



The Let's Talk website has moved to the portal and [this short clip](#) will help you access the site directly to provide you with materials needed to work on oral proficiency in the classroom.



The COBE Moodle Template has been updated and is again available for teachers to request copies (one per group/course you teach, and with your pupils already enrolled!).

Moodle offers practice in one digital environment. Using Moodle to practice for COBE is not restricted to school: Teachers (and pupils) can access the copy of the COBE Template anytime, and anywhere, using the Ministry of Education username and password to access the safe and secure environment. In other words, pupils can practice from home, and even do so using their Mobile device (though it is much better to practice using a PC).

Teachers can also check (and grade!) their pupils' recordings on Moodle. There is no need to ask pupils to use any application to submit their exams. It is all there on Moodle. Learn more:

<https://www.smore.com/6vj5x>

<https://youtu.be/n7WQ-JzKqmc>

Happy Moodling!



**Chemed Coffee Time** kicked off the year on a high note with a turnout of 180 elementary teachers. Click [here](#) for the list of Coffee Time dates throughout this year.



Professional Development: Join a professional learning community. October is here and our 70 learning communities will open soon all over the country.

Most of our PLCs will be online with a few face-to-face sessions. Check options with your counselor or district inspector to find out which PLC is the best for you.

To register, contact the regional Pisha and take an active part in a community of practice which encourages, supports, and inspires teacher growth in an enjoyable and safe environment.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn and share ideas together!

**HAKAVERET**  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR**  
**ELEMENTARY TEACHERS**

music

drama

beginning reading

student engagement

games

hybrid teaching

speaking

SEL

struggling learners

**הכּוֹוֶרֶת**

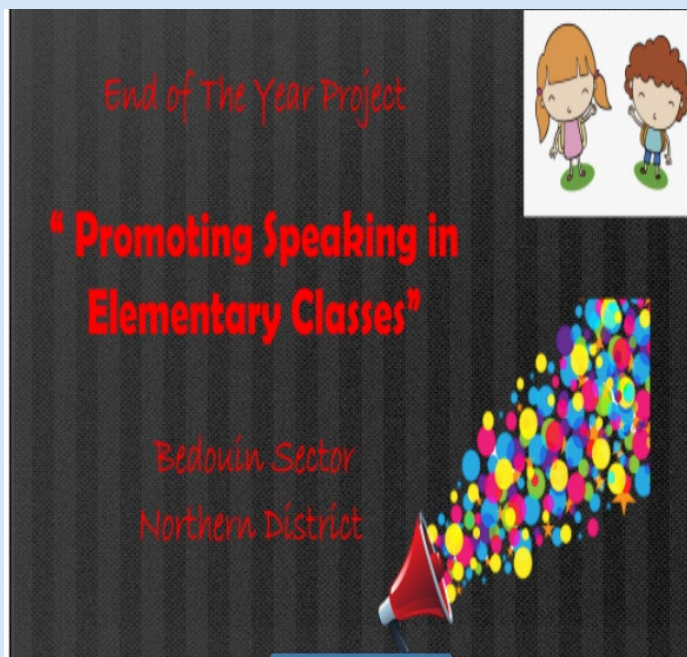
סביבת למידה מקוונת,  
בהתאמה אישית בתחומי הדעת  
למורי היסודי

Choose from a wide variety of study units relevant for your English teaching wherever and whenever you like, without leaving the comfort of your home!

[Click here to watch a short explanatory clip.](#)  
[Click here for more info and to register.](#)  
[Click here to email the Kaveret admin.](#)

See you  
at 'Kaveret!

# SHOWCASE



Counselors in the Bedouin Sector in the north decided to end the past challenging year with a project for promoting speaking in elementary classes. With the participation of most schools in the Bedouin sector, the final product, a digital book, was successfully created. The digital book includes various videos created and presented by students.

The aim of such a simple and enjoyable project is delivering a clear message to teachers: teaching speaking is highly important and therefore it should be integrated as a main skill during lessons.

Would you like to showcase your work? Your staff? A special teacher? An English event in your school? [Complete this short form](#) and we will contact you. Spread the word about something important to YOU!

## Learn in Tune

[bit.ly/learnintune](https://bit.ly/learnintune)

### *Hear Ye Hear Ye*

The E-Talent competition which started last year, will be running again this year for 3rd graders to 6th graders.

The exact details will be announced on all our social media platforms. For regular updates from "Learn in Tune" please join our WhatsApp group.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FocZFKGysYy9wG9h1816UF>

Our site is constantly being updated. Watch this space for news of future Professional Development Courses with Learn in Tune for Elementary Teachers.



Join our Whatsapp group and receive bi-weekly ideas and goodies on how to incorporate music and song in your lessons.

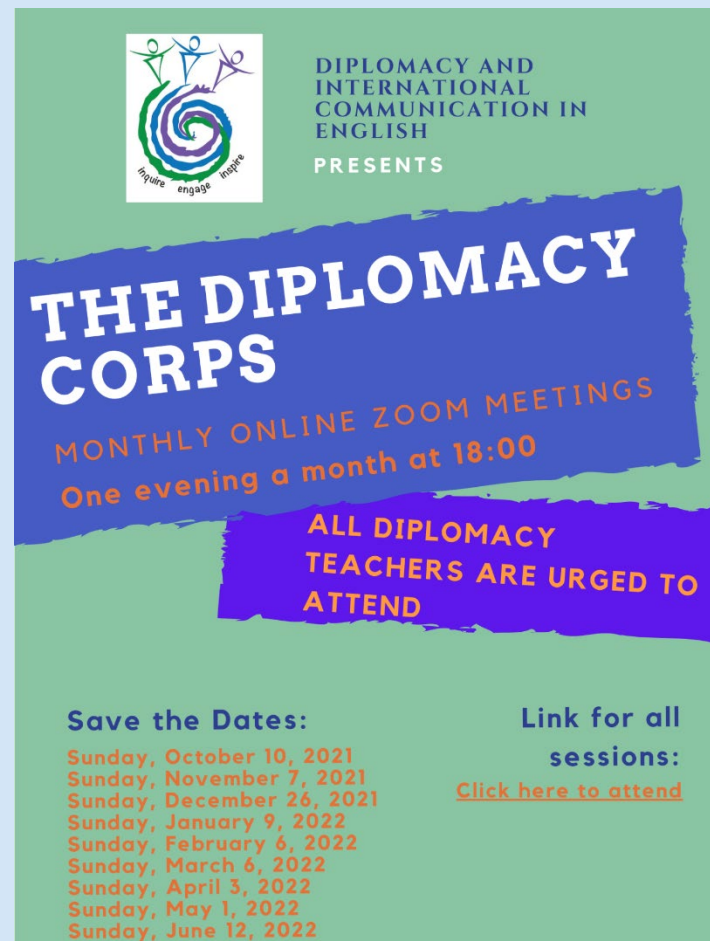
**LEARN IN TUNE**  
CLICK HERE

**BI- WEEKLY BROADCASTS**



### Visit the Site for Diplomacy and International Communication in English!

As we get back into high gear with the new school year, Diplomacy teachers are reigniting our monthly Zoom meetings with a new name, The Diplomacy Corps. Each of these informational meetings will focus on a different subject which is timely and relevant to the teaching of the Diplomacy major. See you there!



**DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH PRESENTS**

**THE DIPLOMACY CORPS**

MONTHLY ONLINE ZOOM MEETINGS  
One evening a month at 18:00

**ALL DIPLOMACY TEACHERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND**

**Save the Dates:**

- Sunday, October 10, 2021
- Sunday, November 7, 2021
- Sunday, December 26, 2021
- Sunday, January 9, 2022
- Sunday, February 6, 2022
- Sunday, March 6, 2022
- Sunday, April 3, 2022
- Sunday, May 1, 2022
- Sunday, June 12, 2022

**Link for all sessions:**  
[Click here to attend](#)



## DINGBATS



<https://bit.ly/dingbata>

These Dingbats are updated each bulletin. Have a look and test your pupils as well.

The dingbats are fun to use in class.

Feel free to share your examples with us at [learnntune@gmail.com](mailto:learnntune@gmail.com)

Here are the previous dingbats with answers

<https://bit.ly/dingbata>

---

**Dream It!** is the name of the new writing project for 5th & 6th graders. It aims to integrate SEL skills (self-awareness, decision-making and more) by encouraging pupils not just to dream but to write concrete, realistic plans to make them come true. Click [here](#) for the Teachers' Guide.


**Dream It!**

Turning your dreams into reality takes a special kind of determination. Setbacks can block the path that leads to your dreams and it's easy to get discouraged. But don't give up just yet.

One of life's great joys is to pursue your passions. By doing so, you are applying yourself to things that you truly care about and setting yourself up for success.

**The Dream It Writing Project** will help make their dreams come true!

**In English!**



## Chat Away Summer Program

155 Junior High and High School students participated in the Chat Away program during the summer months of this year to promote their spoken English skills. The ESRA organisation matched 140 of their native English speaking volunteers with students and the pairs met on zoom for 30 minutes each week and spoke to each other about a vast variety of relevant topics in English.

Dr. Tziona Levi, the Chief Inspector of English and Mr. Terry Morris, the National Chairman of ESRA expressed their sincere appreciation for the volunteers at an Appreciation Event on zoom in early September which was attended by approximately 80 volunteers, students and English teachers.

Thanks to the 28 English teachers who took the time during their summer vacation to submit their students' names initially and later, to follow up on their progress. The next installment of the Chat Away program, for which over 500 ESRA volunteers have been recruited, will continue into the current academic year, restarting in October, providing students from all sectors of Israeli society to enhance their oral English proficiency skills.

### Quotes from Teachers:

"It's an amazing opportunity to speak in a safe environment without being judged."

"Students were enthusiastic to learn ..."

"I see the value of a program like this."

### Quotes from Students:

"My meetings were interesting and the conversations were enriching."

"This was good practice for the oral Bagrut."

### Quotes from Volunteers:

"I sent all new words to my student on WhatsApp and then she used them in our next meeting."

"This was an amazing journey on zoom."

"We talked about EVERYTHING, but mostly the social problems and anxieties of teens."



## The Maccabiah Website



The Maccabiah is the MOE's national theme for all Jewish schools in Israel for the current school year. Students will be educated about the Maccabiah in a wide range of subjects, and as English is the primary language connecting Israeli Jews with Jews in the Diaspora, our students will participate in a variety of interactive, relevant, and meaningful projects throughout the year. This website is a treasure trove of resources for teachers at all levels; here you will find sample lesson plans, clips, quotes, project suggestions and much more.

<https://sites.google.com/view/themaccabiah/about?authuser=2>

## Free private lessons!

Please remind your students that they can register for free private lessons on the portal.

Students from grade 5 and up are entitled to receive lessons.

[Click here for more info.](#)

## Happy 3rd Birthday to Building Blocks

BB's 3rd birthday was celebrated on zoom in mid-August and attended by faithful teachers, counselors and academics.



BB has begun its 4th year now with more programs than ever run both nationally and in the districts. Due to a huge demand, there is now also a BB course for high school teachers!

The banner for "ESRA Teacher Chat" features a scenic background of a blue lake and rocky cliffs. At the top, the logo "ESRA Teacher Chat" is displayed with the tagline "Enhancing English Oral Proficiency". To the right is the logo of the Ministry of Education, Israel. The text on the banner reads: "Dear Native English Speaking Teacher, If you'd like to help *non*-native English speaking teachers gain more confidence with their spoken English *and* get to swap teaching ideas while you're at it, we'd love to hear from you! Click [here](#) for more details and to express your interest in this win-win program!"