

Teach social interaction skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Supporting language and communication skills' from the Guide: [Behaviour and learning](#)

Includes:

Review students' social development

Target social skills teaching to needs

Activities to improve social interaction skills

Create exemplars of social scenarios

Reflective questions

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Behaviour and learning](#)

Strategy: [Supporting language and communication skills](#)

Suggestion: [Teach social interaction skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/behaviour-and-learning/teach-social-interaction-skills

Review students' social development

A student's social development determines how they interact with others.

When a student experiences difficulty in social situations, consider:

- Is the student mature enough to understand what is wanted?
- Have the social expectations been explained in ways the student can understand?
- Do they have the necessary skills, including vocabulary?
- Have they had opportunities to learn and practice the expected social skills?

Target social skills teaching to needs

Sometimes students may need targeted teaching of social skills.

For example, autistic students often need specific teaching to learn how to initiate interactions, share, and take turns.

Steps to consider:

- Define social skills goals and values with the student and their team.
- Describe the goal in measurable terms.
- Use a range of teaching techniques, for example, structured discussions, social stories.
- Facilitate the generalisation of social skills to peers through role-playing and video modelling.
- Transition from structured teaching to everyday situations – the student may need supports to achieve this.
- Check for social validity – can the student use the new skills in different situations?

For resources and activity cards see the Health and Physical Education curriculum:

[Social and Emotional Learning – Resource collections](#)

For younger students see Te Whariki Online:

[He Māpuna te Tamaiti – Supporting social and emotional competence in early learning](#)

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Activities to improve social interaction skills

The social skills toolbox at Do2Learn has a range of activities on the following topics.

- ✓ [Sharing space](#)
- ✓ [Sharing materials](#)
- ✓ [Waiting](#)
- ✓ [Taking turns](#)
- ✓ [Trying new things](#)
- ✓ [Respecting the ideas of others](#)
- ✓ [Participating with others](#)
- ✓ [Choosing friends](#)

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Create exemplars of social scenarios



Inviting play

Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(14 MB\)](#)

Use photos to identify characteristics of an interaction, such as physical space or facial expressions.

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Reflective questions

Adapt for your own context.

Which social interaction skills need strengthening in my class/es?

How can I embed teaching social interaction skills into my regular teaching programme?

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Useful resources



Improving communication skills

Information to support increasing communication skills through understanding purpose and using visual aids.

Publisher: Do2Learn

[Visit website](#)

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