Inclusive Education

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Support planning and thinking skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Helpful classroom strategies years 9–13' from the Guide: ADHD and learning

Includes:

Support time management

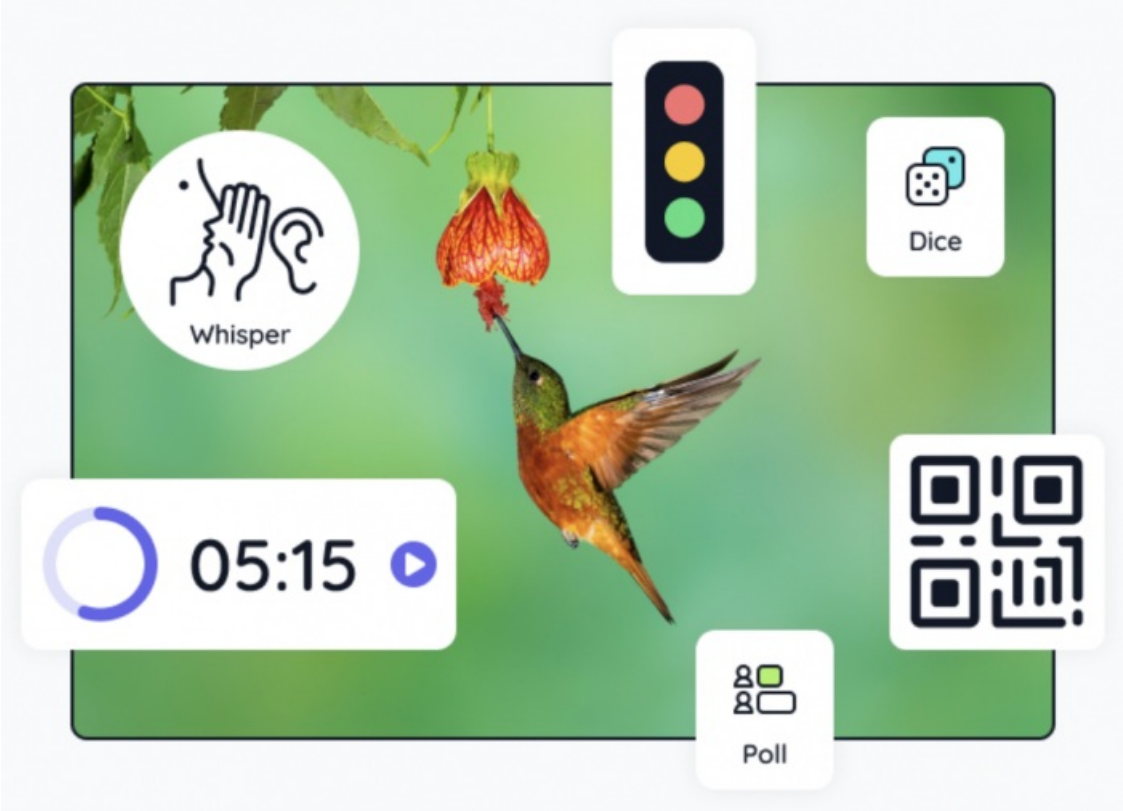
Use multiple approaches to support concentration

Offer a range of approaches to support planning

Support thinking in multiple ways

Useful resources

Support time management



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Introduce tools such as visual timers to reduce surprise that an activity is over or to signal that a transition is coming.

Use multiple approaches to support concentration

Provide options to support concentration and short-term memory.

- ✔ Monitor and moderate the classroom for visual and auditory distractions.
- ✔ Encourage students to adapt the environment to meet their needs by, for example, wearing headphones, moving to a quiet environment or taking a walk to support their thinking.
- ✔ Present information in a range of ways over an extended period of time to help students to retain information, build their understanding and stay focused.
- ✔ Discuss with students the effectiveness of the classroom and make modifications and remove barriers where needed.
- ✔ Use of visual prompts and cues to support understanding and access to learning materials.
- ✔ Make links to background knowledge or previous learning to increase connections.
- ✔ Schedule regular short breaks for physical movement.

Inclusive Education
From
Guide: ADHD and learning
Strategy: Helpful classroom strategies years 9–13
Suggestion: Support planning and thinking skills
Date
19 April 2024
Link
inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/adhd-and-learning/support-planning-and-thinking-skills-in-secondary

Offer a range of approaches to support planning

Suggestions for supporting students' planning and organising.

- ✔ Use charts, visual calendars, colour-coded schedules, visible timers and cues to increase the predictability of regular activities and transitions.
- ✔ Encourage students to use their mobile devices to schedule alerts and reminders for regular and novel events and task deadlines.
- ✔ Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships using visuals, mind maps, 3-D manipulatives, outlines, flow charts and real objects.
- ✔ Model and make available graphic organisers and flow charts to support planning and thinking in all curriculum areas.
- ✔ Break tasks and lengthy assignments into small manageable parts. Schedule workflow using Trello to organise what needs to be done and when.
- ✔ Provide options so that students can submit work online.

Support thinking in multiple ways

- Highlight patterns, critical features and relationships.
- Use cultural and narrative frameworks to support retention and thinking.
- Use visuals, 3D manipulatives, outlines, flowcharts, and real objects.
- Use mind maps to brainstorm ideas and make connections.
- Support group and class discussions with visual annotations to prompt later recall of key ideas.
- Offer students a variety of graphic organisers and flowcharts to support thinking.
- Give students multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas and concepts.
- Provide extra time for students to think and process before responding.

Useful resources

Free graphic organiser templates

Free graphic organiser templates in pdf format.

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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