

Partner with whānau, parents and caregivers

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Identify needs and how to provide support'
from the Guide: [ASD and learning](#)

Includes:

- Find out what's important
 - What to ask
 - Act on whānau expertise
 - Support home-school continuity
 - Support information sharing
 - Useful resources
-

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From

Guide: [ASD and learning](#)

Strategy: [Identify needs and how to provide support](#)

Suggestion: [Partner with whānau, parents and caregivers](#)

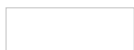
Date

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www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/asd-and-learning/partner-with-whanau-parents-and-caregivers

Find out what's important



Source: Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

Source:

[Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga](#)

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Ask parents to tell you about what's important to their child so you can connect it to learning.

Example – [A girl and her indispensable cat.](#)

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What to ask

Connect with parents, whānau, and caregivers to understand the strengths and needs of students.

Practical elements:

- the language/s spoken at home
- medications and allergies
- equipment used at home
- what they do at home to support learning.

Student's likes and dislikes:

- likes, interests, what they're good at, need help with, can do independently
- dislikes, what can upset them, how they express this, calming skills
- favourites (TV programmes, hobbies, books, songs, sports).

The people in the student's life:

- parent and whānau hopes and priorities
- important people in the student's life
- best methods and times to communicate with the family
- professionals working with the family
- questions they have and support they would like from the school.

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Act on whānau expertise

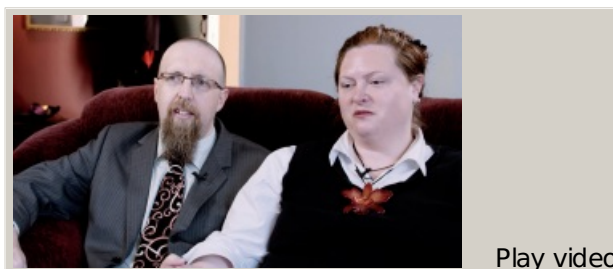
Parents, Dayna and Phil, and class teacher Linda Ojala demonstrate the impact of working in close and responsive partnership.

Source: [Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)

Closed
Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)
<https://vimeo.com/album/2950799>



Play video

Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/186358577>

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Support home-school continuity

Invite families to share approaches that are successful at home to build continuity and strengthen engagement and learning approaches.

- ▲▲ Consider furniture options and physical supports that work well (for example, chairs, table heights).
- ▲▲ Assimilate known interests, such as favourite colours, sports, and music, into the class.
- ▲▲ Identify successful calming strategies and replicate these (for example, objects, cushions, dark spaces).
- ▲▲ Align eating and personal routines with what happens at home.
- ▲▲ Consider visuals that can be used both at home and school to support understanding.
- ▲▲ Invite families to bring objects and items from home that are meaningful and offer support for their children.
- ▲▲ Engage in conversations to identify potential barriers and ask families for solutions based on their personal experiences and expertise.
- ▲▲ Use phrases and communication techniques that are effective and successful at home.

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Support information sharing

Communicate and share information in a meaningful way, demonstrating understanding and support for parents' concerns.

- ▲▲ Encourage parents and caregivers to share what they have noticed or assessments they have had done outside school.
- ▲▲ Build on any programmes or materials used at home, to maximise consistency and support for the student.
- ▲▲ Develop systems for passing on information about a student's needs, progress and next steps.
- ▲▲ Share information about out-of-school programmes that may help to boost the student's self-esteem (for example, classes or groups for music, art, dance or sports).

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Useful resources



Family/whānau file

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