Inclusive Education

Build whanaungatanga

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Identify needs and ways to provide support'
from the Guide: Autism and learning

Includes:

Act on whānau expertise

Connect with culturally sustaining frameworks

Find out what's important

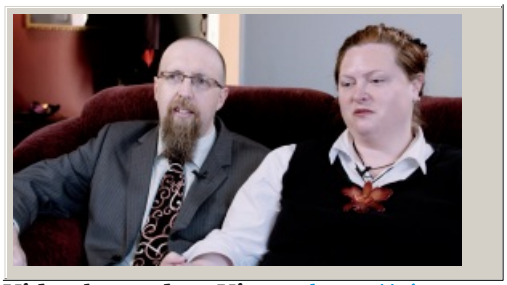
Build the learner profile over time

Find approaches that work at school and at home

Useful resources

Act on whānau expertise

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



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

Closed Captions

Source:
Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos (NZ)
https://vimeo.com/186358577

Connect with culturally sustaining frameworks

Learn from ākonga and whānau using culturally sustaining frameworks. Build a holistic learner profile to understand how to support ākonga wellbeing and learning.

For example, use dimensions from the Māori health model, Te Whare Tapa Whā

Taha Whānau - family, people and relationships

- whānau, friends, iwi and hapū
- cultural, religious, social and recreational connections
- professionals working with the family.

Taha Wairua - spiritual wellbeing or life force

- spiritually strengthening aspects, for example, faith, being in nature, creative activities and meditation
- special interests, hopes and priorities for ākonga and whānau.

Taha Tinana - physical wellbeing

- physical activity and recreation preferences
- physical abilities and challenges
- medications and allergies.

Taha Hinengaro - mental and emotional wellbeing

- strengths and talents
- dislikes, what can upset them
- signs that the student is beginning to feel upset or anxious
- strategies used to calm students.

Whenua - connection to the land and environment

- important places
- iwi and hapū, maunga and awa - mountains and rivers
- interests in the environment, plants and animals
- connections to people and ancestors.

Find out what's important

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Build the learner profile over time

Learner profiles can help school staff build relationships with ākonga and their whānau, understand their perspectives and design learning to meet student needs.

Considerations for learner profiles.

- Provide multiple opportunities and methods to develop the profile.
- Prioritise information from students by using effective communication techniques, for example, point to select, or communication boards.
- Revisit the profile on a regular basis to add depth and new insights.
- Use a range of input methods such as conversations, observations, formal reviews and regular surveys.
- Encourage students to understand their needs and preferences as a learner.
- Act on information that is shared so students can see how their voice helps you design learning experiences that work for them.

Find approaches that work at school and at home

Share approaches that are successful at home or at school to build continuity, strengthen engagement and facilitate learning.

Approaches or items that could be shared or aligned across home and school include:

- home routines that support the student
- home supports for day-to-day life
- student interests, such as favourite topics, colours, sports and music
- phrases, visual cues, signs and other communication techniques
- visuals that support understanding
- strategies and solutions for specific issues
- objects and items that are meaningful and offer support for their children
- calming strategies, for example, objects, cushions, dark spaces and headphones
- eating and personal routines
- furniture and physical supports, for example, chairs and table heights.

Useful resources

Resources for developing a learner profile.

Stephen's letter

Stephen introduces himself to his teachers before starting at Garin College in Nelson.

Download PDF (69 KB)

Get to know students activities

A range of activities that can be used throughout the school year.

Publisher:

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An Educator's Guide to Learner Profiles for Students

Blog exploring ideas and resources for learner profiles.

Publisher:

Visit website

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