

# Questions to ask families

Communicate with family and whānau to understand the strengths and needs of your students. Use this list as a prompt.

For Māori students, learn about their tribal structures and cultural practices:

- Whakapapa (genealogy).
- Who they consider to be whānau.
- Tikanga – cultural values and practices they use (language, customs, traditions).
- About their marae.

People in the student's life:

- Important people in the student's life.
- The best methods and times to communicate with parents and whānau.
- Professionals working with the family and whānau.
- Parent, family and whānau hopes and priorities for them.
- Questions they have and the support they would like from the school.

Practical elements:

- The language/s spoken at home.
- Student's medications and allergies.
- What they do at home to support learning.

Personal preferences:

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

Discuss times when things have gone well for the student and determine the contributing factors.

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