

# Support social interaction

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Key areas to support' from the Guide:

Dyspraxia and learning

**Includes:** Teach and practise social skills

Approaches to support social skills

Foster collaboration and group work

Plan for successful transitions

From

Guide: Dyspraxia and learning Strategy: Key areas to support

Suggestion: Support social interaction

Date

25 April 2024

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-social-interaction

## Teach and practise social skills

Give students multiple opportunities to learn how to act in given social contexts.

- ✓ Explicitly teach non-verbal communication strategies, such as eye contact, facial expressions and body language.
- ✓ Explicitly teach skills associated with social interactions, such as joining a group, taking part in two-way conversations, and reading non-verbal cues.
- ✔ Practise skills using role plays, scenarios and turn-taking games.
- ✓ Reduce social demands in learning activities by giving options for smaller groups or independent work.
- ✓ Build a supportive peer group.

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### Approaches to support social skills

Professor Amanda Kirby describes how to help children with social and communication skills.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/i-WyTh32-8Y

No captions or transcript

Source:

dystalk (UK)

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### Foster collaboration and group work

Provide opportunities for ākonga to work with others. Carefully design group or pair activities to maximise productive interactions and learning.

- ✓ Encourage tuakana-teina relationships and create a culture where students provide support for each other.
- ✓ Provide a kete of strategies to help students to listen actively to each other, share ideas, and recognise different points of view.
- ✓ Use a variety of thinking tools, such as De Bono's thinking hats.
- ✓ Assign roles such as speaker, listener, and note-taker to the group members.
- ✓ Develop cross-cultural communication skills, learning how conventions for conversation vary across cultures and contexts.
- ✓ Monitor the discussions to ensure that all students understand the task and have opportunities to participate.

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#### Plan for successful transitions

Plan ahead for students changing schools, moving on to secondary school or leaving school.

- ✓ Ask the student about their concerns and their ideas about the best ways to support their transition.
- ✓ Talk to the SENCO at the new school or your school's Learning Support Coordinator to find out about the learning environments they will be moving to.
- ✓ Give the student the opportunity to spend time in their new school, meeting their teachers and other students and visiting the classrooms where they will work.
- ✓ If the student would find it helpful, work with the new school to introduce them to a buddy to support the transition.
- ✓ Support students to practise the skills needed for job interviews.

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