

# How physical disabilities can influence learning

## CHALLENGES

Will vary from student to student

- ▶ Moving around safely.
- ▶ Moving and getting into position to learn.
- ▶ Manipulating and using some learning tools and materials.
- ▶ Accessing or participating in some curriculum activities.
- ▶ Carrying out personal care tasks.

## TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



### Adjust the classroom space

- ▶ Check the classroom, doorways and toilets are easy to access.
- ▶ Keep the classroom free of clutter.
- ▶ Create space in class for equipment and technology.



### Adjust the classroom programme

- ▶ Use worksheets and digital resources to lessen the amount of writing required.
- ▶ Give alternatives to physically challenging activities.
- ▶ Give students choice about how they want to present and express their knowledge on a topic.
- ▶ Involve all students in all school activities, including camp and any outdoor activities.



### Provide extra time

- ▶ Give students time to get to know and be comfortable in the classroom.
- ▶ Give students extra time to complete work.
- ▶ Make it okay to rest and take a break in class.
- ▶ Give students extra time to move around the classroom and between classes.



### Use technology and equipment

- ▶ Check if assistive technology is needed and how it is used in class.
- ▶ Have students use technology (for example, laptop, computer or tablet) to present their ideas and work.
- ▶ Allow students to use digital tools and equipment instead of writing.
- ▶ Encourage use of graphic organising software and tools.

## TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



### Focus on personal care

- ▶ Check if fatigue or pain are issues and find out how they are managed.