

Support understanding

Takiwātanga - autism can mean that students find understanding other people challenging.

Understanding others

- Use fewer words
- Slow down the rate of speaking
- Give students more time to process information
- Use clear, concise information with supporting visuals whenever possible.

Understanding abstract language such as sarcasm, metaphors, exaggeration, absolutes or humour

- Teach and support understanding of abstract concepts
- Avoid absolutes as students may take these literally
- Use terms such as “usually” to avoid absolutes, for example, “We usually play at about 11am”.

Understanding gestures, facial expressions, or body language and applying to social situations

- Teach students to recognise, interpret and respond appropriately to gestures, facial expressions, or body language.
- Teach, model and practise conversation, social and interpersonal skills such as turn taking and questioning.

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