MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

# Strengthen a supportive peer culture

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Establish a respectful class climate' from the Guide: Inclusive classroom culture

**Includes:**

Encourage peer support

Develop shared expectations

Discuss friendships

Develop peer tutoring approaches

Strengthen collaborative strategies

Useful resources

# Encourage peer support

Recognise and value the practical support peers can give to each other.

**Video hosted on Vimeo** http://vimeo.com/61762057

Closed Captions

**Source:**
Enabling e-Learning (NZ)
http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Inclusive-classrooms/Universal-Design-for-Learning/Partnership-with-peers-supports-effective-access-to-learning

# Develop shared expectations

Promote interactions that support a positive peer culture.

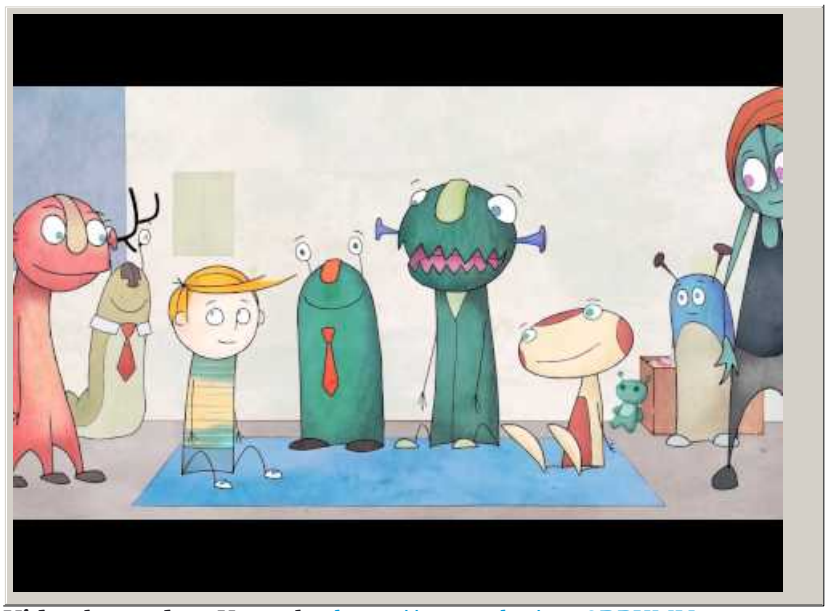
Agree with your students on the behaviours that will help ensure a safe and respectful learning environment.

Consider how you will:

- collaborate and agree on behaviours and expectations with your students
- support students to understand the language and words used within the expectations, for example use pictures, words, and diagrams
- plan to prompt or remind students of expectations prior to learning activities
- display expectations so they are easily accessible as a tool to support student self management.

# Discuss friendships

An animated video to support junior classes to talk about friendships.



**Video hosted on Youtube** http://youtu.be/qac8BPXMUtg

No captions or transcript

**Source:**
Start Empathy (UK)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qac8BPXMUtg

# Develop peer tutoring approaches

The advantages of peer tutoring.

**Benefits for tutees**

- more individual teaching
- gains in learning
- gains in social/relationship skills, for example, communicating, accepting help
- improvement in attitude towards learning
- improvement in self-esteem.

**Benefits for tutors**

- practice/reinforcement of skills at earlier levels
- gains in learning
- insight into the learning process
- development of social/relationship skills, for example, listening, encouraging
- development of responsibility
- development of self-esteem.

**Benefits for teachers**

- increased opportunity to interact effectively with a range of individual students
- more effective use of time
- greater coverage of individual needs
- opportunities to observe students at work, and to assess skills.

# Strengthen collaborative strategies

Consider how to build peer-to-peer support through your learning activities and class culture.

A skilled teacher optimises task sequences, not only to directly facilitate the different stages of learning cycles for individual students, but also to build up a peer learning culture that can intensify the challenges and supports for learning.

**Source:**
Quality Teaching for Diverse Students in Schooling: Best Evidence Synthesis (p. 91)
https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/2515/5959

# Useful resources

## Teaching strategies for inclusive classrooms part 2: Peer tutoring

Read time: 3 min

Information to support setting up a successful peer tutoring programme in your classroom. Created for the NZ Ministry of Education.

**Download** PDF (6.2 MB)

## Teaching strategies for inclusive classrooms part 1: Cooperative learning

Read time: 3 min

Information to support setting up a successful cooperative learning programme in your classroom.

**Download** PDF (3.2 MB)

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