

# Ask the student what will help and consider a learner profile

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Identify needs and how to provide support'  
from the Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Ask what helps
- Build the learner profile over time
- Let students personalise learner profiles
- What to include in a learner profile
- Useful resources
- Examples of learner profiles

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From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Identify needs and how to provide support](#)

Suggestion: [Ask the student what will help and consider a learner profile](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/ask-the-student-what-will-help-and-consider-a-learner-profile](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/ask-the-student-what-will-help-and-consider-a-learner-profile)

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## Ask what helps

Katrina, a high school student from Onslow College makes recommendations about ways teachers can support her learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/100662365>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)

<http://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

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## Build the learner profile over time

Learner profiles can help school staff build relationships with ākonga and their whānau, understand their perspectives and design learning to meet student needs.

Considerations for learner profiles.

- Provide multiple opportunities and methods to develop the profile.
- Prioritise information from students by using effective communication techniques, for example, point to select, or communication boards.
- Revisit the profile on a regular basis to add depth and new insights.
- Use a range of input methods such as conversations, observations, formal reviews and regular surveys.
- Encourage students to understand their needs and preferences as a learner.
- Act on information that is shared so students can see how their voice helps you design learning experiences that work for them.

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## Let students personalise learner profiles



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

<https://inclusive-live-storage.s3.amazonaws.com/public/inclusive-education/resources/files/Example%2BLearner%2BProfile-Rachel.pdf>

[View full image \(1.2 MB\)](#)

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## What to include in a learner profile

Discuss with the student and their whānau what to include in a learner profile.

- ✓ Important people
- ✓ Cultural connections and experiences
- ✓ Languages spoken
- ✓ Things the student is good at
- ✓ Memorable life experiences
- ✓ How they like to unwind and relax
- ✓ Likes and interests
- ✓ Dislikes and things they avoid
- ✓ How they like to learn and what helps
- ✓ Things that make it hard for them to learn
- ✓ What they do when they need help

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## Useful resources



### Developing learner profiles

Read time: 3 min

This document provides general support and guidance when developing a learner profile. It includes prompts and questions, alongside purpose and benefits for students.

Publisher:

[Download](#) PDF (211 KB)



### About me

This learner profile template is a companion to "Developing learner profiles". It is an interactive PDF with questions for students to answer.

[Download](#) PDF (596 KB)

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## Examples of learner profiles



### Primary school learner profile

An example of a NZ primary school student's learner profile, developed by the adults around her.

[Download](#) DOC (613 KB)



### Secondary school learner profile

An example of a NZ secondary student's learner profile.

[Download](#) PDF (331 KB)

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