

# Support processing and organisation skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Helpful classroom strategies years 1–8' from  
the Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

---

## **Includes:**

- Support organisation with visuals
- Support concept development
- Support attention, focus and independence
- Model planning and thinking
- Support thinking and pattern recognition
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Support processing and organisation skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills)

---

## Support organisation with visuals



Source:

Kathy Cassidy

<https://flic.kr/p/aH3vZV>

[View full image \(906 KB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Support processing and organisation skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills)

---

## Support concept development

Build new learning on solid foundations.

Provide multiple opportunities to revisit a new idea or concept.

- ✓ Check to ensure that students retain and can demonstrate previously-learned skills before beginning new learning.
- ✓ Teach new skills using a variety of methods, materials and contexts and using concrete, practical and visual materials.
- ✓ Reinforce abstract concepts with visual and concrete materials.
- ✓ Make explicit connections between new knowledge and previous experience.
- ✓ Make connections to high interest and practical everyday situations.
- ✓ Offer multi-sensory explanations and demonstrations.
- ✓ Provide extra time and opportunities for additional repetition and reinforcement – where applicable, involve a buddy, parents, or a support teacher.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Support processing and organisation skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills)

---

## Support attention, focus and independence

Aim to increase student independence by providing just enough support. Build these approaches into the way you teach.

- ✓ Break learning into short, focused and clearly defined tasks.
- ✓ Vary the level of demand from task to task.
- ✓ Provide clear instructions that are visually displayed and can be easily returned to.
- ✓ Vary the level of support as necessary and teach buddies how to provide support.
- ✓ Provide a variety of technologies to support learning, for example, an iPad or a computer.
- ✓ Create an activity box for times when the student needs a change of activity or time out.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Support processing and organisation skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills)

## Model planning and thinking



Source:

Laurie Sullivan

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/32561453@N05/8711384625/in/photolist-egN89D-egTTVS-egN86c-egN8kp-egTTA1-egN8tv-egN8ja-egTTPG-egTTXN-egN88e-egTTUC-egN8eX-egTTyj-egTTHQ-egN8di>

[View full image \(302 KB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1–8](#)

Suggestion: [Support processing and organisation skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills)

---

## Support thinking and pattern recognition

Use tools and approaches to help students to recognise patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships.

- ✓ Use visuals — graphics, photos, cartoons, pictures — to support text and talk when explaining anything.
- ✓ Offer 3D virtual and physical models and real objects to help students identify critical features.
- ✓ Use mind maps, flowcharts, and outlines to help students unpack big ideas and relationships.
- ✓ Give students multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas and concepts.
- ✓ Provide extra time for students to think and process before they need to respond in a discussion.
- ✓ Use mindmaps to brainstorm ideas.
- ✓ Support group and class discussions with visual annotations to prompt later recall of key ideas.
- ✓ Make thinking tools and approaches available across all curriculum areas.

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Support processing and organisation skills](#)

Date

17 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-processing-and-organisation-skills)

---

## Useful resources



### Free graphic organiser templates

Free graphic organiser templates in pdf format.

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

[Visit website](#)



### Popplet

Popplet is a tool for the iPad and web to capture and organise ideas.

Publisher: Notion

[Visit website](#)

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.