

Support working memory

Following multi-step directions and operations requires ākonga to hold information in their heads whilst they work.

Here are some useful strategies to support this working memory:

- ✓ Work with ākonga to find an approach for breaking apart multi-step directions that works for them. They may draw lines between each step, or highlight, cross out, or number each step.
- ✓ Encourage ākonga to write down their thoughts and observations to support mental calculations on paper.
- ✓ Give your learner examples to look at in order to decrease the cognitive load.
- ✓ Provide frequent practice to build competency.
- ✓ Encourage the use of physical objects, manipulatives, drawing and visual representations.
- ✓ Identify and use assistive tools where applicable e.g. calculators, text-to-speech.
- ✓ Allow ākonga to move at their own pace. Be considerate of the time it takes to read and interpret questions.

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