

# Support students in the playground

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Support and strengthen peer relationships'  
from the Guide: [Positive peer relationships](#)

- 
- Includes:**
- Support recreational activities
  - Support unstructured time
  - Create quiet spaces
  - Develop buddy systems
  - Consider the environment
  - Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Support and strengthen peer relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Support students in the playground](#)

Date

21 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground)

---

## Support recreational activities



Source:

cobalt123

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/cobalt/485155687/sizes/o/>

[View full image \(279 KB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Support and strengthen peer relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Support students in the playground](#)

Date

21 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground)

---

## Support unstructured time

Unstructured times, such as lunchtimes, can create stress for some students.

Consider:

- having a small choice of organised activities for students to participate in at break times
- providing buddies to model and mediate (if necessary) interactions during break times
- ensuring that students know where to go to find the duty teacher or peer mediators when they are concerned or need some help
- how to make all staff aware of the support individual students may need and how to provide it most effectively
- outlining the school boundaries and the school rules regularly
- providing alternative break times for junior and senior syndicates in larger schools.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Support and strengthen peer relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Support students in the playground](#)

Date

21 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground)

---

## Create quiet spaces



Source:

Jane's Pond Ltd

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/janes\\_pond/6306080584/sizes/o/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/janes_pond/6306080584/sizes/o/)

[View full image \(59 KB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Support and strengthen peer relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Support students in the playground](#)

Date

21 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground)

---

## Develop buddy systems



Source:

World Bank Photo Collection

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldbank/4699806393>

[View full image \(5.6 MB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Support and strengthen peer relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Support students in the playground](#)

Date

21 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground)

---

## Consider the environment

Work with students to identify adaptations that can be made to enable everyone to participate.

### Sensory integration

Include students with sensitivity to bright light and loud noises by:

- lowering the volume when using music
- using soundproof headphones in the gym or hall
- using sunglasses for outdoor activities in bright sunlight
- turning off some lights and relying more on natural lighting or using LED light bulbs.

### Accessibility

Hard surfaces such as concrete may be dangerous for individuals with dyspraxia, and softer surfaces such as wood chips make it difficult to manoeuvre a wheelchair.

- Use appropriate surface, such as gym or hall, rather than concrete.
- Use outdoor mats.
- Adapt games and activities so all can participate, for example, play a game such as [sitting volleyball](#) or [scooter soccer](#).



Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Support and strengthen peer relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Support students in the playground](#)

Date

21 May 2024

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/support-students-in-the-playground)

---

## Useful resources



### Recess for your child with special needs: 7 challenges and solutions

Read time: 6 min

This is a series of suggestions to support students with special needs to participate during playtime and lunchtimes.

Publisher: Friendship Circle Special Needs Resource Blog

[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.