**Inclusive Education** 



# Identify parent and whānau needs and desires

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Partner with the family/whānau' from the Guide: Transitions – managing times of change

#### **Includes:** Build relationships

Work with parents Blog transition visits Reflect on your process Useful resources

## **Build relationships**

When building relationships with parents and whānau, it is vital to be respectful and mindful of their experiences. Consider:

- their personal preferences for engagement (for example, faceto-face or group-based)
- suitable timing (time of day or week), acknowledging personal pressures
- their experiences with schooling
- the personal situations of the individuals involved (for example, consider the ages, gender and preferences of the individuals, and the financial, time or other commitments you are asking of them
- culturally responsive actions for different situations
- the ratio of professionals to family members too many professionals can be overwhelming.

### Work with parents

- Communicate and share information in a meaningful way, demonstrating understanding and support for parents' concerns.
- ✓ Involve parents and whānau in determining strategies to support student learning and well-being.
- ✓ Value family members' knowledge about their child and assessments they have had done outside school.
- Work with programmes or materials parents and whānau are using at home to maximise consistency and support for the student.
- ✓ Develop systems for passing on information about a student's needs, progress and next steps.
- ✓ Share information about out-of-school programmes (for example, classes or groups for music, art, hobbies or sport).

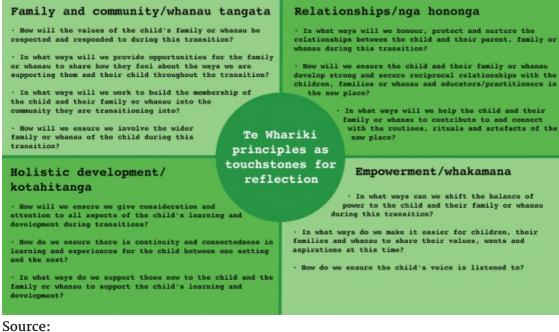
#### **Blog transition visits**



#### Source: Muritai School class blog http://www.mrsryanmuritai.blogspot.co.nz/2014/06/kindy-visit.html

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#### **Reflect on your process**



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### **Useful resources**



#### Family/whānau file

A booklet to help parents of students with additional needs to brief their child's school.

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