

# 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: [ADHD and learning](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Find out what matters to ākonga
- Innovate with getting to know your learner
- Let ākonga personalise learner profiles
- What to include in a learner profile
- Examples of learner profiles
- Useful resources

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Guide: [ADHD and learning](#)

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

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

Date

23 June 2026

Link

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

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## Find out what matters to ākonga

When schools take the time to find out what matters to learners and where their learning strengths are, partnerships can be built that meet learners where they are at rather than a 'one size fits all' approach.

"Children with ADHD have been found to demonstrate cognitive strengths in the areas of logical thinking and reasoning, emotional intelligence, and creativity."

**Climie and Mastoras 2015**

Source:

[ADHD in Schools - Adopting a strengths-based perspective](#)

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281702994\\_ADHD\\_in\\_Schools\\_Adopting\\_a\\_Strengths-Based\\_Perspective](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281702994_ADHD_in_Schools_Adopting_a_Strengths-Based_Perspective)

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## **Innovate with getting to know your learner**

Learner profiles can help school staff build relationships with ākongā and their whānau, understand their perspectives and design learning to meet learner needs. There are many creative and innovative ways to build knowledge about your learner.

Creative alternatives to learner profiles:

#### 1. All About Me Interviews

- One-on-one chats with a teacher or peer using simple, structured questions.
- Use visuals or yes/no prompts.
- Record answers through voice, video, or drawing:
- "What do you like at school?"
- "What helps you learn?"

#### 2. Video Introductions / Self-Presentations

- Learners record short videos introducing themselves.
- They can show their strengths, interests, and needs.
- Great for visual and verbal expression — use prompts or interview formats.

#### 3. Photo Collages or Vision Boards

- Learners select photos of people, places, things, or activities they like.
- Use magazines, printed photos, or digital tools (like Canva or Book Creator).
- Add labels or short captions if appropriate.

#### 4. Learning Choice Baskets

- Use a basket or box filled with objects that represent learning preferences (e.g., headphones, timer, picture of a friend, fidget, iPad).
- The learner selects what helps them learn best.
- You can record their choices as a profile.

#### 5. Interactive Poster or Wall Display

Create a classroom wall or board where learners can add post-its or pictures under categories:

"I feel calm when..."

"I like learning with..."

"I want to get better at..."

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## Let ākonga personalise learner profiles



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

<https://inclusive-live-storagebucket-3uty0hejzw6u.s3.ap-southeast-2.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 ākongā and their whānau what information will help inform their learning.

- ✓ 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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## 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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## Useful resources



## Learning Maps

Learning maps are another practical approach for Kaiako and parents to support learners in fun and energising ways that will help to improve their learning.

Publisher: Infinity Learn Limited

[Visit website](#)



## PATH Planning Process

This site provides in-depth information about the process of PATH planning from a person-centred, kotahitanga approach.

Publisher: Inclusive Solutions

[Visit website](#)



## ThingLink

Allows learners to embed hotspots with text, audio, quizzes, and links onto images or videos—great for presenting their learning visually and interactively.

Publisher: ThingLink

[Visit website](#)



## Avatoon – Cartoon avatar maker

Students can create personalised avatars that reflect their identity, style, and expressions—perfect for easy self-representation in digital profiles or presentations.

Publisher: Avatoon

[Visit website](#)

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