

Partner with whānau, parents and caregivers

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Identify needs and how to provide support'
from the Guide: [ADHD and learning](#)

Includes:

- Build trust
- Work together
- What to ask
- Manage medication
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [ADHD and learning](#)

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

Suggestion: [Partner with whānau, parents and caregivers](#)

Date

23 June 2026

Link

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Build trust



Source:

[Melanie Cook](#)

<https://www.flickr.com/>

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Work together

Suggestions for working together with parents, caregivers and whānau.

- ✓ Communicate and share information in a culturally meaningful and mana-enhancing way, demonstrating understanding and support for parents' concerns and cultural identity.
- ✓ Value what parents and caregivers have noticed or assessments they have had done outside school.
- ✓ Involve parents and caregivers in determining strategies to support ākonga learning and well-being.
- ✓ Work with any programmes or materials they are using at home, to maximise consistency and support for the learner.
- ✓ Develop systems for passing on information about a learner's needs, progress and next steps in ways that are meaningful.
- ✓ Share information about out-of-school programmes (for example, classes or groups for music, art, debating or sport).
- ✓ Actively and regularly communicate positive information and achievements to the family.

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What to ask

Connect with parents, whānau, and caregivers to understand the strengths and needs of ākonga.

The people in the learners' lives:

- parent and whānau hopes and priorities
- important people in the learner's life
- best methods and times to communicate with the family
- professionals working with the family
- questions they have and support they would like from the school.

Practical elements:

- the language(s) spoken at home
- medications and allergies
- equipment used at home
- what they do at home to support learning

Learners' likes and dislikes:

- likes, interests, strengths, what they're good at, can do independently
- dislikes, what can upset them, how they express this, calming skills
- favourites (TV programmes, hobbies, books, songs, sports)

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Manage medication

Some learners with ADHD take medication.

Work with family and whānau to create a medication plan that sets out when and how much medication is given.

- ✓ Read your learner's plan and keep it handy.
- ✓ Know your role in helping your learner to take their medication. Know, for example, whether you need to prompt them to take it and how you will do that. You may need to arrange safe storage for the medication.
- ✓ Learn to recognise when the medication has worn off or if it is causing side effects.
- ✓ Provide a private place for your learner to take their medication.
- ✓ Do not disclose medication use to other learners without permission.

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Useful resources



Awhi Ngā Mātua

A parent-led initiative empowering families to drive positive change. Created by parents for parents of neurodiverse children.

Publisher: Awhi Ngā Mātua

[Visit website](#)



Educationally powerful partnerships

This resources offer school leaders constructive strategies for forming trusting learning relationships with whanau.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

[Visit website](#)



Listening to families

A NZ video series featuring psychiatrists, educators, and whānau sharing experiences, strategies, and school supports.

Publisher: Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora

[Visit website](#)

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