

Foster social interaction

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Key areas of support' from the Guide: [Autism and learning](#)

Includes:

- Teach students about their autistic peers
- Support and develop social skills
- Teach conversation skills
- Use the social skills tool kit
- Create exemplars of social scenarios
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Autism and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas of support](#)

Suggestion: [Foster social interaction](#)

Date

24 April 2024

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/autism-and-learning/foster-social-interaction

Teach students about their autistic peers

Develop approaches to teach peers and others about autism. The **Kit for Kids program** is an American resource to teach primary school students about their autistic peers.

Involve ākonga and whānau and gain permission to share student specific information.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/mtRYKjucDHk>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Organization for Autism Research](https://researchautism.org/educators/kit-for-kids/kit-for-kids-activities)

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Support and develop social skills

Support the development of social skills and foster positive social interactions.

- ✓ Foster tuakana-teina relationships where students support each other.
- ✓ Help autistic students to observe and notice others so that they can learn from their interactions.
- ✓ Support social engagement with peers and adults.
- ✓ Teach skills associated with social interactions, such as joining a group, taking part in two-way conversations, and reading non-verbal cues.
- ✓ Structure social supports, particularly for situations where the rules or conventions are not clearly spelled out, such as at break times.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for peers to understand the perspective of the autistic student.
- ✓ Encourage whole-school awareness and understanding of autism.

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Teach conversation skills

Autistic students can get stuck on one subject, find it difficult to read facial expressions and miss social cues.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/C_OovRTkaaY

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Autism Speaks \(US\)](#)

http://youtu.be/C_OovRTkaaY?t=1m58s

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Use the social skills tool kit

Explore free social skills resources.

- ✓ [Nonverbal prompts](#)
- ✓ [Listening prompt sheets](#)
- ✓ [Green zone worksheets](#)
- ✓ [Pie chart visuals](#)
- ✓ [Using balance for reciprocity](#)
- ✓ [All about me signs](#)
- ✓ [Chain and building visuals](#)
- ✓ [Talk to family picture sheets](#)
- ✓ [Conversation box](#)
- ✓ [Validating word cards](#)
- ✓ [Compliment maker](#)
- ✓ [Words hurt / Words help sheets](#)
- ✓ [Self-control meters](#)
- ✓ [Dealing with losing panels](#)

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Create exemplars of social scenarios



Inviting play

Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(14 MB\)](#)

Use photos to identify characteristics of an interaction, such as physical space or facial expressions.

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Useful resources

Apps to support autistic learners, includes social stories on a wide range of topics. These are available individually or as four bundles.



Touch Autism (Apps)

Apps to support autistic learners, including social stories. For Apple devices

Publisher: Touch Autism

[Visit website](#)

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