

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Autism and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas of support](#)

Suggestion: [Support communication](#)

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Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/autism-and-learning/support-communication

Support understanding

Takiwātanga - autism can mean that ākonga find understanding other people challenging.

Understanding others

- Use fewer words
- Slow down the rate of speaking
- Give learners more time to process information
- Use clear, concise information with supporting visuals whenever possible.

Understanding abstract language such as sarcasm, metaphors, exaggeration, absolutes or humour

- Teach and support understanding of abstract concepts
- Avoid absolutes as learners may take these literally
- Use terms such as “usually” to avoid absolutes, for example, “We usually play at about 11am”.

Understanding gestures, facial expressions, or body language and applying to social situations

- Teach ākonga to recognise, interpret and respond appropriately to gestures, facial expressions, or body language.
- Teach, model and practise conversation, social and interpersonal skills such as turn taking and questioning.

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