

Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment' from the

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Includes:

Understand what makes a difference

Build bridges and remove barriers

Invest in joint learning with whānau

Learn from students and parents

Indicators of mahi tahi

Reflection questions

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment](#)

Suggestion: [Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact](#)

Date

26 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/collaborative-planning-for-learning/adopt-collaborative-approaches

Understand what makes a difference

The most effective approaches that positively influence student wellbeing and learning:

- ✓ promote reciprocal, learning-centred relationships with teachers and the school
- ✓ recognise, respect, and value the diverse identities, languages, and cultures of the school community
- ✓ draw on community knowledge
- ✓ make connections to students' lives outside the school
- ✓ facilitate joint interventions.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment](#)

Suggestion: [Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact](#)

Date

26 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/collaborative-planning-for-learning/adopt-collaborative-approaches

Build bridges and remove barriers

“I think looking ahead to the future, this is the way to do learning. To combine school and whānau. If you remove the barriers and make it accessible in an environment that is safe like a marae, then it sets a platform for things.”

Find out more about [Reading Together® Te Pānui Ngātahi](#)



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/321660073>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Reading Together® Te Pānui Ngātahi](#)

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/topics/bes/reading-together-te-panui-ngatahi>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment](#)

Suggestion: [Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact](#)

Date

26 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/collaborative-planning-for-learning/adopt-collaborative-approaches

Invest in joint learning with whānau

Joint interventions have the greatest impact of all approaches.

They help parents or other community members support student learning and wellbeing.

They also engage teachers in professional learning and development.

For example:

- [Reading Together® programme](#) (Biddulph Education Trust Ltd.)
- [Tilting the Seesaw for Teams](#) (Autism NZ)
- Co-development of te reo Māori audio recordings of books, made by elders, to support children's language learning and reading
- Training parents and teachers to work together to identify how to best support children's learning
- Ākonga regularly reading their books alongside kuia and kaumatua at ELS/school
- Kaumātua or manawhenua sharing stories with ākonga and kaiako about significant landmarks and historical events in their local region

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment](#)

Suggestion: [Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact](#)

Date

26 June 2026

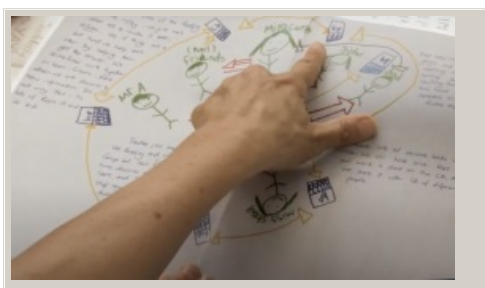
Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/collaborative-planning-for-learning/adopt-collaborative-approaches

Learn from students and parents

Mapping, drawing, and talking together builds understanding.

Explore **case studies** to find out more.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/zG6sowkzvqg>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Infinity: Where the Learning Never Ends \(US\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHYo7InP5D457ybZs9A6PWg>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment](#)

Suggestion: [Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact](#)

Date

26 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/collaborative-planning-for-learning/adopt-collaborative-approaches

Indicators of mahi tahi

Mahi tahi or mahi ngātahi (collaboration) means working as one, with collective responsibility, commitment, and a shared focus.

Review the following statements for your own context.

Mahi tahi (working as one) is alive in a learning community when:

- the local curriculum is co-constructed with ākonga, whānau, and mana whenua to create a responsive, localised curriculum linked to te ao Māori
- learning is made visible in ways that work for both ākonga and whānau, for example, through [learning stories](#) or [blogs and eportfolios](#)
- ākonga and whānau are included in decision making, goal setting, and problem solving
- ākonga and whānau expertise is valued and community members are viewed as teachers and learners
- creative, flexible, and responsive ways to keep whānau connected (mobile technologies and community networks)
- kaiako work to understand learning and behaviour from a kaupapa Māori perspective
- kaiako are open to feedback from whānau and the wider Māori community
- kaiako actively engage with mana whenua and take responsibility for embedding their knowledge and narratives within curriculum and practice.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Collaborative planning for learning](#)

Strategy: [Collaboratively planning a universally designed learning environment](#)

Suggestion: [Adopt collaborative approaches that have the most positive impact](#)

Date

26 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/collaborative-planning-for-learning/adopt-collaborative-approaches

Reflection questions

Consider these questions.

To what extent are whānau included in decisions about their children's learning and wellbeing?

How well-informed are parents about their child's learning and wellbeing, local curriculum, teaching programmes, assessment processes, and pastoral care practices?

What opportunities are there for whānau and ākonga to take a lead role?

How do whānau want to be communicated with?

What kind of information do whānau find most useful to receive or to share?

How is your school community changing? How do you know and what is the impact?

What does this mean for how your school communicates with all parents and whānau, not just those who come through the school gate?

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.