

# Explore digital tools to support literacy (years 1-13)

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Support reading and writing' from the Guide:  
[Curriculum accessibility](#)

- 
- Includes:**
- Offer text-to-speech tools
  - Offer digital tools to all learners
  - Utilise digital storytelling tools
  - Use graphics and mind maps
  - Use audio books
  - Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Curriculum accessibility](#)

Strategy: [Support reading and writing](#)

Suggestion: [Explore digital tools to support literacy \(years 1-13\)](#)

Date

06 June 2026

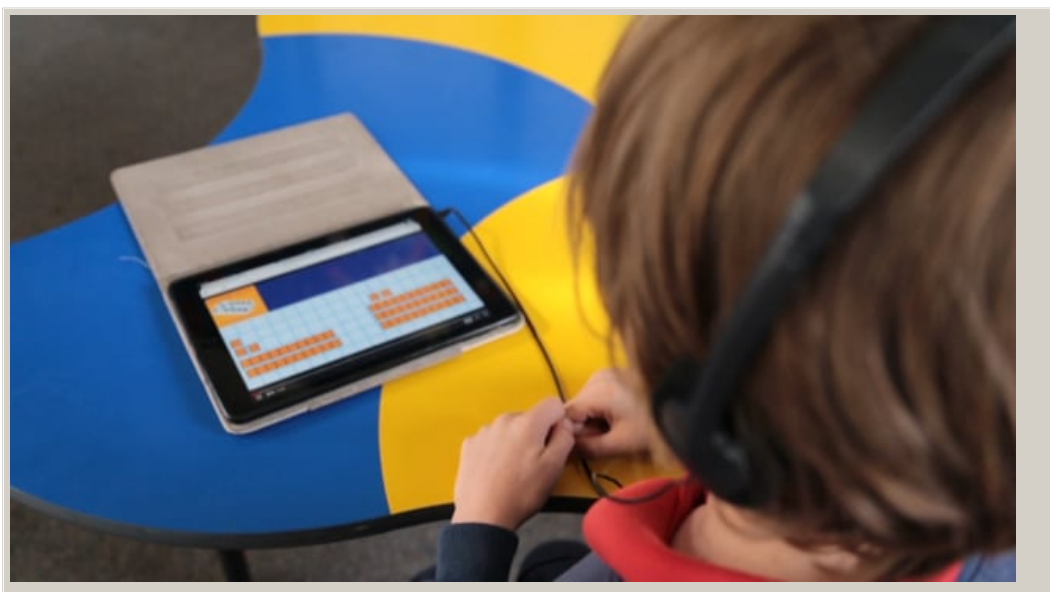
Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/curriculum-accessibility/explore-digital-tools-to-support-literacy-years-1-13](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/curriculum-accessibility/explore-digital-tools-to-support-literacy-years-1-13)

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## Offer text-to-speech tools

Offer text-to-speech tools to read text aloud and support comprehension. Free text-to-speech tools are available across all computer operating systems.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/105617225>

Closed Captions

Source:

<https://vimeo.com/105617225?p=1s>

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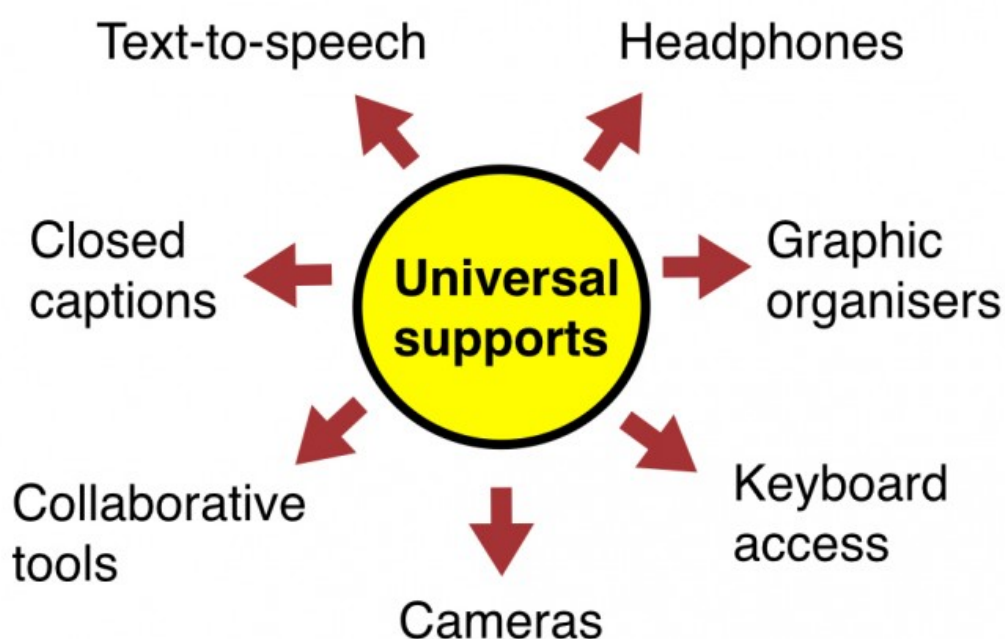
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## Offer digital tools to all learners



Source:

[CORE Education](#)

<https://core-ed.org/>

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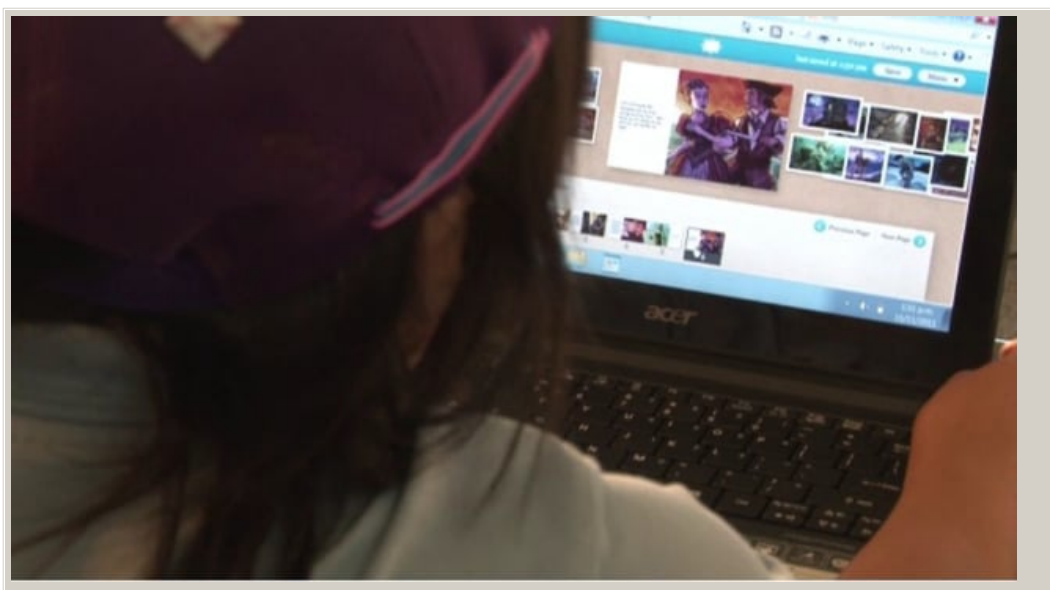
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## Utilise digital storytelling tools

**Storybird**, a free digital story writing tool, has improved student literacy at Te Kura o Kutarere by providing pictures as a support and removing the barriers created by writing by hand.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/34540004>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning](#)

<https://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Curriculum-learning-areas/English/Using-Storybird-to-improve-literacy-skills>

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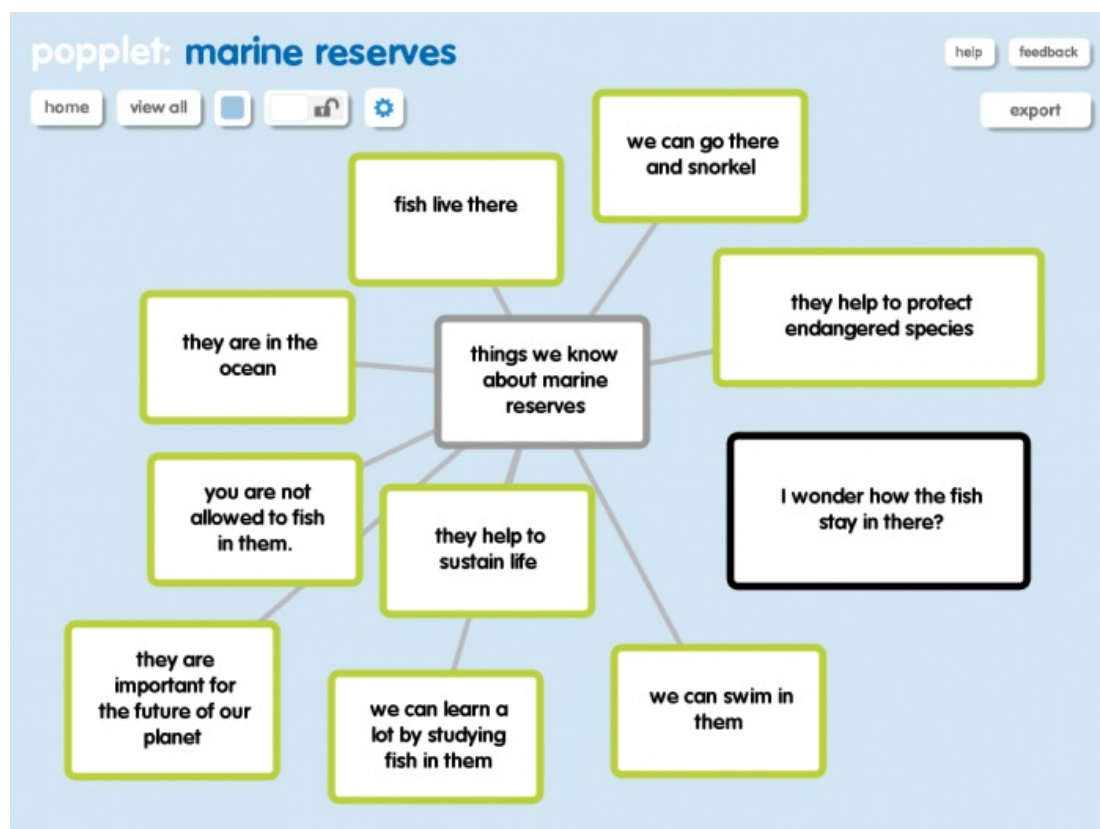
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## Use graphics and mind maps



Source:

Catrina Pene, CORE Education

<https://core-ed.org/about-core/our-people/catrina-pene>

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## Use audio books

Audio books support learners to access information and develop comprehension skills.

Audio books can be used to:

- increase engagement and motivation and prevent frustration
- introduce learners to books above their reading level
- model fluent reading
- introduce new genre that might not otherwise be considered
- support new vocab
- customise books (by speeding up or slowing down narration).

For audio resources, explore:

- [Sign language e-books](#)
- [Ready to Read Instructional Series](#)
- [Junior Journal Instructional Series](#)
- [School Journal Story Library](#)
- [Overdrive](#) access to audio books from your local library
- [Sunshine online e-books](#).

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## Useful resources



### Engaging reluctant writers using e-learning tools

A slideshare presentation by New Zealand learning with digital technologies facilitator Catriona Pene, containing a wide range of easily-accessible, online resources and apps for improving writing.

Publisher: Catriona Pene

[Visit website](#)

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