

# 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

From

Guide: Curriculum accessibility

Strategy: Support reading and writing

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

Date

28 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/curriculum-accessibility/explore-digital-tools-to-support-literacy-years-1-13

## Offer text-to-speech tools

Offer text-tospeech tools to read text aloud and support comprehension. Free text-tospeech 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 https://vimeo.com/105617225?p=1s

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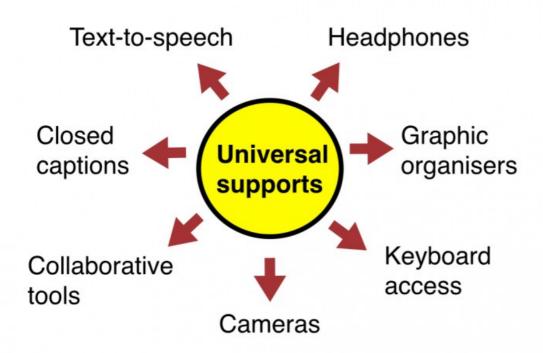
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## Offer digital tools to all learners



Source:

CORE Education https://core-ed.org/

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## **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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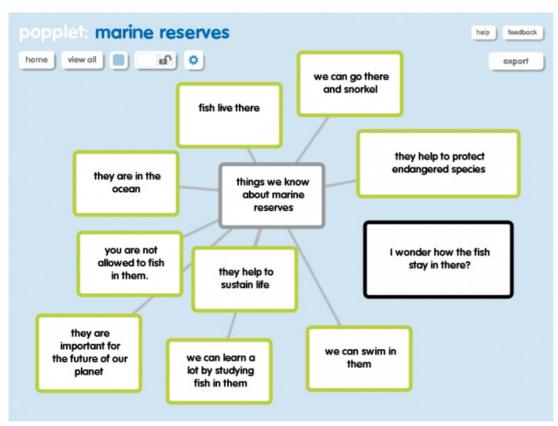
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## Use graphics and mind maps



Source:

Catriona Pene, CORE Education https://core-ed.org/about-core/our-people/catriona-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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