

Support social interaction

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Key areas to support' from the Guide: [Deaf and hard of hearing](#)

Includes:

- Pre-teach the rules of games
- Support belonging and confidence
- Demonstrate you value diversity
- Support peer communication
- Build self-esteem
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Deaf or hard of hearing students and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support social interaction](#)

Date

18 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/deaf-or-hard-of-hearing-students-and-learning/support-social-interaction

Pre-teach the rules of games



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Support belonging and confidence

Ask students who are deaf or hard of hearing what is working well and where support is needed.

Develop strategies together.

- ✓ Develop a range of communication skills and strategies that can be used in different environments, situations, and reflect on their impact.
- ✓ Develop vocabulary that describes feelings and emotions.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for students to express what they know and share their experiences in ways that work for them.
- ✓ Build on personal interests, strengths and culture.

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Demonstrate you value diversity

Suggestions for demonstrating that student diversity is valued.

- ✓ Celebrate [New Zealand Sign Language week](#).
- ✓ [Learn some New Zealand Sign Language](#) together.
- ✓ Introduce basic signs into everyday communication throughout the school.
- ✓ Organise classroom visits and presentations from community members who are deaf or hard of hearing so that they can be role models and stimulate classroom discussion about hearing differences, how to communicate clearly, and why it is important to value difference.
- ✓ Use your knowledge of the student's interests, strengths and culture to create opportunities for the student to take a leadership role.

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Support peer communication

Model, discuss, and support effective communication between students.

These three videos from the illustrate authentic student-based role-plays modelling appropriate ways to communicate in the classroom and the playground.

- [Classroom solutions](#)
- [Dealing with noisy situations](#)
- [7 Rules for good communication](#)

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Build self-esteem

Deaf students may experience feelings of isolation.

Build self-esteem and belonging within the culture of the classroom.



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

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Learn NC \(NZ\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXvdioeyrU>

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Useful resources



Learn NZSL

Learn NZSL is a free learning portal. Watch, learn and practise how to use NZSL in common situations.

Publisher: New Zealand Sign Language

[Visit website](#)

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