

Support students' processing and organisational skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8' from the Guide: [Deaf and hard of hearing](#)

Includes:

- Support organisational skills
- Prevent fatigue
- Support thinking and pattern recognition
- Support independence with visuals
- Useful resources

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From

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

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Support students' processing and organisational skills](#)

Date

06 July 2026

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Support organisational skills

Suggestions for supporting students' organisational and processing skills.

- ✓ Label key areas of the classroom and resources with visual and text labels.
- ✓ Use charts, visual calendars, colour-coded schedules, visible timers and visual cues to increase the predictability of regular activities, transitions between environments and activities, and changes in discussion topics.
- ✓ Make graphic organisers and flowcharts available to support breaking tasks into chunks, and thinking and planning in all curriculum areas.
- ✓ Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships using visuals, mind maps, 3D manipulatives, outlines, flowcharts and real objects.
- ✓ Give students multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas in a range of contexts.
- ✓ Pace content delivery. Give students time to process and integrate information from multiple sources - displays, interpreters, written instructions, the teacher.

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Prevent fatigue



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Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Support thinking and pattern recognition

Use tools and approaches to help learners to recognise patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships.

- ✓ Use visuals — graphics, photos, cartoons, pictures — to support text and talk when explaining anything.
- ✓ Offer 3D virtual and physical models and real objects to help ākongā identify critical features.
- ✓ Use mind maps, flowcharts, and outlines to help learners unpack big ideas and relationships.
- ✓ Give ākongā multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas and concepts.
- ✓ Provide extra time for ākongā to think and process before they need to respond in a discussion.
- ✓ Use mindmaps to brainstorm ideas.
- ✓ Support group and class discussions with visual annotations to prompt later recall of key ideas.
- ✓ Make thinking tools and approaches available across all curriculum areas.

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Support independence with visuals



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Useful resources



Time Timer (visual timer for visual people!)

For many students being able to see a visual representation of time passing can really support their time management. This video explains how time timer works.

Publisher: Time Timer

[Visit website](#)

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