

# Develop learner profiles with students

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Value what each student brings ' from the

Guide: [Inclusive classroom culture](#)

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## **Includes:**

Let ākonga personalise learner profiles

What to include in a learner profile

Innovate with getting to know your learner

Survey students about preferences

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Developing an inclusive classroom culture](#)

Strategy: [Value what each student brings](#)

Suggestion: [Develop learner profiles with students](#)

Date

24 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/develop-learner-profiles-with-students](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/develop-learner-profiles-with-students)

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## Let ākonga personalise learner profiles



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

<https://inclusive-live-storage-stack-asset-storage-s3bucket-3uty0hejzw6u.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/public/inclusive-education/resources/files/Example%2BLearner%2BProfile-Rachel.pdf>

[View full image \(1.2 MB\)](#)

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# What to include in a learner profile

Discuss with ākonga and their whānau what information will help inform their learning.

- ✓ Important people
- ✓ Cultural connections and experiences
- ✓ Languages spoken
- ✓ Things the student is good at
- ✓ Memorable life experiences
- ✓ How they like to unwind and relax
- ✓ Likes and interests
- ✓ Dislikes and things they avoid
- ✓ How they like to learn and what helps
- ✓ Things that make it hard for them to learn
- ✓ What they do when they need help.

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## **Innovate with getting to know your learner**

Learner profiles can help school staff build relationships with ākongā and their whānau, understand their perspectives and design learning to meet learner needs. There are many creative and innovative ways to build knowledge about your learner.

Creative alternatives to learner profiles:

#### 1. All About Me Interviews

- One-on-one chats with a teacher or peer using simple, structured questions.
- Use visuals or yes/no prompts.
- Record answers through voice, video, or drawing:
- "What do you like at school?"
- "What helps you learn?"

#### 2. Video Introductions / Self-Presentations

- Learners record short videos introducing themselves.
- They can show their strengths, interests, and needs.
- Great for visual and verbal expression — use prompts or interview formats.

#### 3. Photo Collages or Vision Boards

- Learners select photos of people, places, things, or activities they like.
- Use magazines, printed photos, or digital tools (like Canva or Book Creator).
- Add labels or short captions if appropriate.

#### 4. Learning Choice Baskets

- Use a basket or box filled with objects that represent learning preferences (e.g., headphones, timer, picture of a friend, fidget, iPad).
- The learner selects what helps them learn best.
- You can record their choices as a profile.

#### 5. Interactive Poster or Wall Display

Create a classroom wall or board where learners can add post-its or pictures under categories:

"I feel calm when..."

"I like learning with..."

"I want to get better at..."

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# Survey students about preferences

Ask students what supports their learning and what gets in the way.

I personally do a survey at the beginning of every class, every semester ... to get an idea of who is in the classroom to begin with and what they would benefit, or what they want to see in the class, what would work [and not work] for them.

**Nancy Searcy**

**Source:**

Student profiles - UDL supporting diversity in BC schools

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## Useful resources



### Primary school learner profile

An example of a NZ primary school student's learner profile, developed by the adults around her.

[Download](#) DOC (613 KB)



### Secondary school learner profile

An example of a NZ secondary student's learner profile.

[Download](#) PDF (331 KB)

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