

# Focus on what a student can do and their next steps

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Plan for everyone to participate and achieve'  
from the Guide: [Inclusive classroom culture](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Use inclusive language
- Model positive language
- Consider social attitudes towards students
- Encourage peer-to-peer support
- Engage with student perspectives
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

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

Strategy: [Plan for everyone to participate and achieve](#)

Suggestion: [Focus on what a student can do and their next steps](#)

Date

25 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/focus-on-what-a-student-can-do-and-their-next-steps](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/focus-on-what-a-student-can-do-and-their-next-steps)

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## Use inclusive language

As a teaching team, discuss the language you use to describe students' well-being and their learning needs.

Consider the impact of identifying students through phrases such as “struggling readers”, “low achievers”, “special needs students,” or “slow learners”.

Instead take an evidence-based approach. Focus on what students can do and articulate next steps in their learning that both the students and their families can understand and embrace.

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## Model positive language



Source:

Ministry of Education, [inclusive education videos](#)

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/2950799>

[View full image \(659 KB\)](#)

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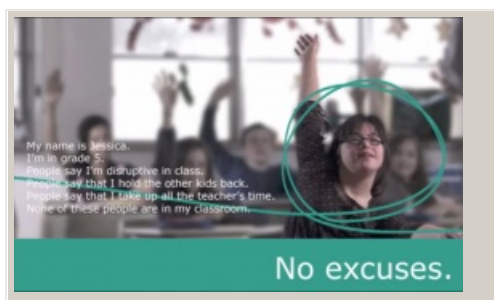
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# Consider social attitudes towards students

Use these videos to reflect on attitudes and beliefs towards inclusive practices.



Video hosted on Youtube [http://youtu.be/G68R\\_nCuJTs](http://youtu.be/G68R_nCuJTs)

No captions or transcript

**Source:**

[Canadian Association of Community Living \(Canada\)](#)  
[https://youtu.be/G68R\\_nCuJTs](https://youtu.be/G68R_nCuJTs)

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## Encourage peer-to-peer support

To support a peer prepare for their first school camp, students at Houghton Valley School made a book using digital photos with captions.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113344263>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling eLearning \(NZ\)](#)

<https://elearning.tki.org.nz/Snapshots-of-learning/Snapshots-of-Learning/Hapara-Teacher-Dashboard-and-Google-Apps/Inclusion-in-the-classroom>

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## Engage with student perspectives

In the first part of this video students share their views on what inclusion means to them.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/169767226>

Closed Captions

Source:

Ministry of Education, [inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)  
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/2950799>

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## Useful resources



### Shared clarity on next learning steps

This resource offers strategies for developing next learning steps. It provides learning resources and readings.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

[Visit website](#)

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