

# Understand the identity, culture, and language of each student

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Value what each student brings ' from the

Guide: [Inclusive classroom culture](#)

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## **Includes:**

Know your learner

Seek to understand a learner's culture

Work in partnership with ākonga

Take time to build relationships

Find out where students are from

Useful resources

## Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Understand the identity, culture, and language of each student](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/understand-the-identity-culture-and-language-of-each-student](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/developing-an-inclusive-classroom-culture/understand-the-identity-culture-and-language-of-each-student)

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## Know your learner

Linda Ojala describes how she designs learning that works for all students.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/100662380>

Closed Captions

Source:

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

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

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## Seek to understand a learner's culture

Six rangatahi who identify as deaf communicate their aspirations.



Video hosted on Youtube [http://youtu.be/\\_4Zk4WDJkhs](http://youtu.be/_4Zk4WDJkhs)

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga \(NZ\)](#)

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## Work in partnership with ākonga



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(283 KB\)](#)

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# Take time to build relationships

Liz Crisp of Mangere Bridge School talks about finding connections with students.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/111163911>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Pasifika Education Community TKI \(NZ\)](https://pasifika.tki.org.nz/Media-gallery/Effective-teaching-for-Pasifika-students/Building-relationships)

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## Find out where students are from

Create intentional and ongoing opportunities for students to share where they are from, what is important to them and why.

Consider a range of activities that give learners the opportunity to share about their origins, iwi, hupu or whānau connection:

- [Whakapapa interviews](#)
- [Creating pepeha](#)
- Creating connections through stories, art, dance, and drama.

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## Useful resources



### Knowing all students

Information to support teachers with knowing their learners so they can help them recognise their competencies, demonstrate their strengths, and work towards their aspirations.

[Visit website](#)



### Pepeha

Read time: 7 min

This Junior Journal article explains what a pepeha is and why it is important in Māori culture.

Publisher: Literacy Online

[Visit website](#)

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