

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support communication using recommended approaches](#)

Date

14 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches

Use clear, concise language

Consider your use of language. Support important information and instructions with pictures, objects and gestures.

- ✓ Use fewer words.
- ✓ Slow down your rate of speaking.
- ✓ Speak clearly and directly to students, taking care over similarly-sounding words such as “trees” and “cheese”.
- ✓ Give students more time to process information.
- ✓ Explore a range of visual communication tools to support classroom routines and prepare for transitions.
- ✓ Use students’ names to gain attention before giving an instruction or asking a question.
- ✓ Display new vocabulary on a whiteboard or chart.

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.
