

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

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

Date

09 August 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches)

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## 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.

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