

# Partner with whānau

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Identify ākonga needs and how to provide  
support' from the Guide: [Dyslexia and  
learning](#)

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**Includes:**

- Understand parent perspectives
- What to ask
- Value whānau knowledge
- Support information sharing
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Identify ākongā needs and how to provide support](#)

Suggestion: [Partner with whānau](#)

Date

20 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/partner-with-whanau](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/partner-with-whanau)

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## Understand parent perspectives

Keep in mind that parents and whānau:

- may be coming to terms with a diagnosis of dyslexia and what it means for their child
- may need reassurance and evidence that their child's needs are being met
- may be anxious about their child's emotional response to their difficulties, as well as what the school has done or will do to help
- may have dyslexia themselves and had negative learning experiences during their time at school
- may be frustrated with school systems and feel their concerns are not being addressed.

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## What to ask

Connect with parents, whānau, and caregivers to understand the strengths and needs of their child.

### Consider:

- parent and whānau hopes and priorities
- important people in the child's life
- best methods and times to communicate with the family
- professionals working with the family
- questions they have and support they would like from the school

### Consider:

- the language/s spoken at home
- what they do at home to support learning
- technologies used at home.

### Consider the learner's:

- likes and interests – what they're good at, need help with, can do independently
- dislikes – what can upset them, how they express this, calming skills
- favourites (TV programmes, hobbies, books, songs, sports).

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## Value whānau knowledge

My son is... intelligent, musically talented, responsible, loving, and very good company.

My son is not great at decoding. Actually he is terrible, but he loves to read using his Kindle. He loves to learn and finds ways to learn all the time with his iPad.

**Parent of child with dyslexia**

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## Support information sharing

Communicate and share information in meaningful ways. Demonstrate understanding and support for parents' concerns.

- Encourage parents and caregivers to share what they have noticed outside school, including any assessments that might have been done.
- Build on any programmes or materials used at home, to maximise consistency and support for the learner.
- Develop systems for passing on information about a learner's needs, progress, and next steps.
- Share information about out-of-school programmes in your area that may help to boost the learner's self-esteem (for example, classes or groups for kapa haka, music, art, dance or sports).

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## Useful resources



### Student profile

A student profile template that is useful for gathering information about the student, strengths, challenges, interventions, accommodations, and assistance.

Publisher: Learning Matters

[Visit website](#)



### Dyslexia and the family

A booklet for parents providing information on how to help their child at home and how they can access support.

Publisher: Dyslexia Foundation of NZ

[Visit website](#)

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