

# Support writing skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach' from the Guide:

[Dyslexia and learning](#)

---

## **Includes:**

Three ways to support writing development

Provide a multifaceted approach

Provide templates

Model spelling strategies

Provide word lists

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Support writing skills](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills)

---

## Three ways to support writing development

**Teach the code** – systematically teach phonics in the first three years of school.

**Adapt the instruction** and expectation, not the content. Provide access to the curriculum for all learners.

**Self regulation** – support students to set goals and self-monitor.

## Provide a multifaceted approach

Strategy type	Skill area			
	Transcription		Executive function	Working memory (WM)
	Spelling	Handwriting		
Teaching	Improve phonics skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• teach letter-sound relationships and rules</li><li>• learn sight words</li><li>• teach patterns e.g rhyming</li></ul>	Improving letter formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use modeling and self-verbalisation</li><li>• Use visual cues</li><li>• Teach letters in groups by shape</li><li>• Use a variety of media e.g. finger in sand, chalk on concrete, paint, digital technology apps</li></ul>	Support self-regulated strategy development to improve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• planning</li><li>• organisation</li><li>• goal setting</li><li>• self-monitoring</li></ul> Explicitly model how to do this e.g. saying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "My goals for this persuasive essay are to include three reasons,"</li><li>• "Am I following my plan?"</li></ul>	Reduce load on working memory by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• breaking task into small steps</li><li>• writing scaffolds – provide ideas, sentence starters, vocabulary, and spelling</li><li>• sentence combining – scaffold learning to write complex sentences by providing a series of simple sentences for students to combine into complex sentences.</li></ul>
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a spellcheck</li><li>• iWordQ or other app</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn keyboarding</li><li>• Use speech-to-text systems</li><li>• Dictate to a writer</li></ul>	Writing scaffolds – Provide students with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ideas</li><li>• vocabulary and spelling</li><li>• a planning frame.</li></ul> This reduces cognitive demands of transcription and idea generation, focusing students' attention on learning a step-by-step approach to organising and writing information according to the text structure chosen.	

Adapted from: Hebert, M., Kearns, D. M., Hayes, J. B., Bazis, P., & Cooper, S. (2018). Why children with dyslexia struggle with writing and how to help them. *Language, speech, and hearing services in schools*, 49(4), 843–863. doi:10.1044/2018\_LSHSS-DYSLC-18-0024

Source:  
Adapted from [Why children struggle with writing and how to help them](#)  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6430506/>

[View full image \(189 KB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Support writing skills](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills)

---

## Provide templates



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(6.3 MB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Support writing skills](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills)

---

## Model spelling strategies



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(563 KB\)](#)



Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Support writing skills](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills)

---

## Provide word lists



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(644 KB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyslexia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Support early literacy development through a structured literacy approach](#)

Suggestion: [Support writing skills](#)

Date

18 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyslexia-and-learning/support-writing-skills)

---

## Useful resources



### Why children with dyslexia struggle with writing and how to help them

Read time: 80 min

This article describes the challenges that children with dyslexia have with writing and outlines instructional strategies to increase spelling and overall writing quality.

Publisher: National Library of Medicine

[Visit website](#)



### Writing for impact: Teaching students how to write with a plan and spell well

Based on a simple view of writing, these books provide simple, effective strategies to improve teaching and learning. The books include templates, plans, and links to videos that support these strategies.

Price: **One off charge \$90.00**

[Visit website](#)

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.