

Support motor skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Key areas to support' from the Guide:

[Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Includes:

Develop coordination skills

Develop motor skills

Improve balance

Understand how dyspraxia affects handwriting

Provide support and alternatives for handwriting

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support motor skills](#)

Date

10 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-motor-skills

Develop coordination skills

Professor Amanda Kirby talks about the importance of regular practice and a focus on essential or interesting skills.

Where possible
integrate skills activities
into classroom routines.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/FCcNxbY1bmQ>

No captions or
transcript

Source:

[dysalk \(UK\)](#)

<http://youtu.be/FCcNxbY1bmQ>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support motor skills](#)

Date

10 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-motor-skills

Develop motor skills

Give students multiple opportunities to develop skills and master essential tasks.

- ✓ Focus on essential tasks or skills the student is interested in.
- ✓ Break a task down into small steps.
- ✓ Support the steps with visuals.
- ✓ Teach and practise the steps regularly to build into a movement sequence.
- ✓ Provide multiple options to develop essential skills. For example, use small play items to develop fine motor skills for writing.
- ✓ Provide alternative means of completing tasks. For example, Velcro™ shoes while learning to tie shoelaces or as an alternative.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support motor skills](#)

Date

10 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-motor-skills

Improve balance



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(5.1 MB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support motor skills](#)

Date

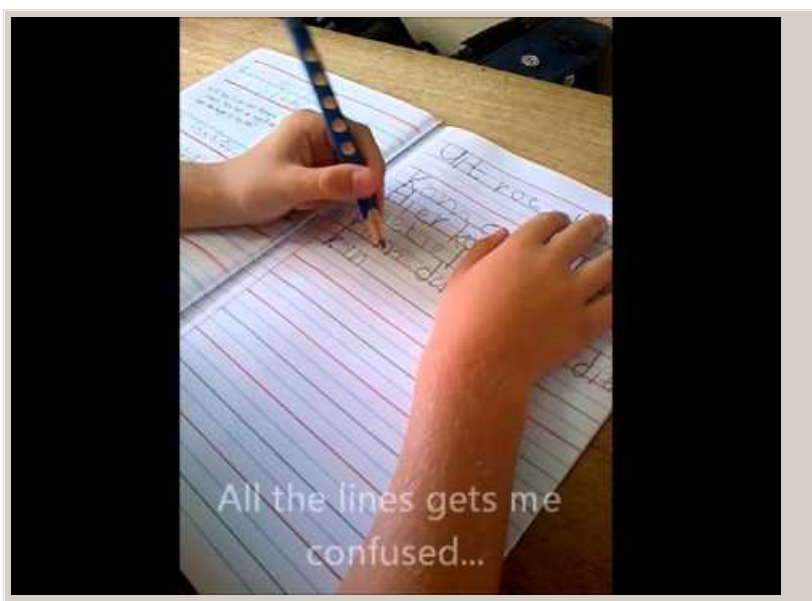
10 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-motor-skills

Understand how dyspraxia affects handwriting

See how a handwriting task is challenging for this student with dyspraxia.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/5vUjtY84VkU>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Dream Box \(US\)](#)

<http://youtu.be/5vUjtY84VkU>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support motor skills](#)

Date

10 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-motor-skills

Provide support and alternatives for handwriting

Provide a range of support and alternatives for printing and writing tasks.

Examples of handwriting supports

- pen types, sizes, shapes, lengths and colours
- pen and pencil grips
- surface types, such as paper, whiteboards, laminated sheets
- lined paper to guide alignment
- furniture, such as an angled board, adjustable height tables, chairs for optimal positioning
- support for spacing between letters and words, for example using finger spaces.

Examples of alternatives for handwriting

- keyboards
- onscreen keyboards, such as an iPad keyboard
- voice typing.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Dyspraxia and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support motor skills](#)

Date

10 September 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/dyspraxia-and-learning/support-motor-skills

Useful resources



To write or to type – that is the question!

This article discusses how children with dyspraxia or other developmental coordination disorders may benefit from using a computer to write.

Publisher: CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research,

[Visit website](#)



Children with coordination difficulties: a flyer for physical educators

This flyer explains how physical educators can assist children with coordination disorders to perform at school.

Publisher: CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research,

[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.