

Foster collaboration and group work

Provide opportunities for ākongā to work with others. Carefully design group or pair based activities to maximise productive interactions and learning.

- ✓ Assign a peer to support students during group work.
- ✓ Plan turn-taking games and circle games to encourage appropriate social interaction.
- ✓ Provide physical items such as a cushion or mat to define personal space or a talking stick or stone for ākongā to hold when it is their turn to talk.
- ✓ Encourage tuakana-teina relationships and create a culture where students role model and provide support for each other.
- ✓ Create social stories that break down a task or social situation into small and easy-to-understand steps, accompanied by descriptive pictures.
- ✓ Teach specific speaking and conversation skills. For example, rehearse ways to start and close a conversation and read body language.
- ✓ Assign group roles such as speaker, listener, and note-taker to the group members.
- ✓ Monitor the discussions to ensure that all students understand the task and have opportunities to participate.

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