

Welcome parent and community input of support, expertise, and resources

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Work with parents and whānau' from the Guide: [ILEs](#)

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- Includes:**
- Value parental knowledge
 - Listen to families
 - Utilise parent expertise
 - Work with local iwi

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Planning innovative learning environments \(ILEs\)](#)

Strategy: [Work with parents and whānau](#)

Suggestion: [Welcome parent and community input of support, expertise, and resources](#)

Date

28 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources

Value parental knowledge

Invite families to share approaches that are successful at home to build continuity and strengthen engagement and learning approaches.

- ✓ Consider furniture options and physical supports that work well (for example, chairs, table heights).
- ✓ Assimilate known interests, such as favourite colours, sports, and music, into the class.
- ✓ Identify successful calming strategies and replicate these (for example, objects, cushions, dark spaces).
- ✓ Align eating and personal routines with what happens at home.
- ✓ Consider visuals that can be used both at home and school to support understanding.
- ✓ Invite families to bring objects and items from home that are meaningful and offer support for their children.
- ✓ Engage in conversations to identify potential barriers and ask families for solutions based on their personal experiences and expertise.
- ✓ Use phrases and communication techniques that are effective and successful at home.

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Listen to families

Parents, Dayna and Phil, explain how sharing successful approaches and incorporating their daughter's interests reduced anxiety and provided consistency between home and school.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/186358577>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](#)
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/2950799>

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Utilise parent expertise

Parents, Nina and Melanie designed and purpose-built furniture for Waimairi School. They explain the importance testing furniture in spaces.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/8lOKS8Mv-8M>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga \(NZ\)](#)
<https://youtu.be/8lOKS8Mv-8M>

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Work with local iwi

Early engagement ensured the appropriate protocols were considered, including blessing prior to works commencing, relationship/orientation of spaces, reference to mana, whenua narratives through the design of the whare, and pōwhiri for welcoming all new students and other formal occasions.

Source:

[Auckland Design Manual \(Auckland Council\)](#)

<https://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/universal-design.html>

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