

# 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](#)

- 
- 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

07 June 2026

Link

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

## 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

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources)

---

## 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>

## 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

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources)

---

## 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>

## 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

07 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/planning-innovative-learning-environments-iles/welcome-parent-and-community-input-of-support-expertise-and-resources)

---

## 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>

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.