

# Develop independent living skills

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Prepare ākonga with future-focused skills' from the Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Develop self-care and life skills
- Use the School Leavers' Toolkit
- Support student advocacy
- Develop budgeting and money skills
- Develop independent mobility skills
- Useful resources

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From

Guide: [Preparing students to leave school](#)

Strategy: [Prepare ākongā with future-focused skills](#)

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills)

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## Develop self-care and life skills

Work with the student, their whānau and education team to prioritise and develop independent self-care and life skills.

- 1 Work as a team to identify and prioritise skills, for example, at an IEP meeting.
- 2 Break skills into bite-sized pieces by using visual schedules and other picture-based communication tools.
- 3 Create a step-by-step plan to develop skills.
- 4 Monitor and review progress regularly.

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## Use the School Leavers' Toolkit

The School Leavers' Toolkit has advice and resources on study, work and living for students who are leaving school.

Students can find out about:

- ✓ what their study and training options are.
- ✓ what to expect when it's time to find a place of their own.
- ✓ what is expected in the workplace.
- ✓ how to budget, pay tax and save.
- ✓ getting involved in government.
- ✓ things that could affect their wellbeing.

For more information see [School Leavers' Toolkit](#) – Ministry of Education.

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# Support student advocacy

Help students to be able to talk about their needs and to advocate for themselves.

Support students to:

- ✓ explain their learning needs and preferences to others.
- ✓ describe teaching approaches and resources that may be barriers to learning.
- ✓ understand and articulate their rights and how to advocate for them.
- ✓ find out about, and access, available supports and resources.

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## Develop budgeting and money skills

Help students to learn to manage their money and make personal spending choices.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/ZRg6-fODdKU>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education](#)

<https://school-leavers-toolkit.education.govt.nz/>

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## Develop independent mobility skills

Help students to get around their local environment safely and get to and from places of work, study, leisure and recreation.

Familiarise students with:

- local destinations that are important for them.
- using maps and digital tools to navigate to key locations such as the library.
- using public transport options.
- independently booking specialist taxi or travel services.
- accessing specialised orientation and mobility services for eligible students with low vision or blindness.

For more information see [Developmental orientation and Mobility services](#) – BLENNZ.

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## Useful resources



## School Leavers' Toolkit

Advice and resources for students on study, work and life after leaving school.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

[Visit website](#)



## The Deaf Toolbox: NZSL

Videos giving useful information about everyday life situations. Topics include finding work, going flatting and health support.

Publisher: Learning Specialist and Teacher Materials

[Visit website](#)



## Sorted in Schools

Financial education activities and resources for schools and students.

Publisher: Retirement Commission

[Visit website](#)



## NZTA secondary curriculum resources

Road safety resources for teachers with students in years 9 and above, including Drivers Licence NCEA credits.

Publisher: New Zealand Transport Agency

[Visit website](#)

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