

Develop independent living skills

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

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

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills

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.

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills

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.

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills

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.

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills

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/>

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills

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.

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Develop independent living skills](#)

Date

29 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/preparing-students-to-leave-school/develop-independent-living-skills

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](#)

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.