

Build language-rich environments

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8' from the Guide: [Speech, Language and Communication](#)

- Includes:**
- Develop language-rich displays
 - Respond to language needs and interests
 - Develop language-teaching strategies
 - Use comments to build language
 - Use narrative approaches
 - Extend language through play
 - Build topic-specific vocabulary

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From

Guide: [Speech, Language and Communication](#)

Strategy: [Helpful classroom strategies years 1-8](#)

Suggestion: [Build language-rich environments](#)

Date

19 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/speech-language-and-communication/1-8-develop-language-rich-displays

Develop language-rich displays

Create displays that extend children's language growth. Regularly refresh the displays in collaboration with ākonga and whānau.

Ideas for creating rich language environments include:

- Display big ideas with visuals.
- Use zones, for example, for inquiry, English and maths, to make it easy to find key supports.
- Use images, photos and displays to prompt language-rich conversations.
- Include photos of shared activities such as field trips to prompt ongoing discussions.
- Create vocabulary and word walls. Keep them uncluttered. Refresh them to reflect current topics.
- Use pouches, resource boxes, photos or QR codes so students can take resources to their desks or personal devices.
- Make spaces that are unique to Aotearoa, for example, spaces for te ao Māori and te reo Māori that are prominent and integrated across all areas.
- Create displays that give ākonga access to key vocabulary, task steps, success criteria, thinking tools and models.

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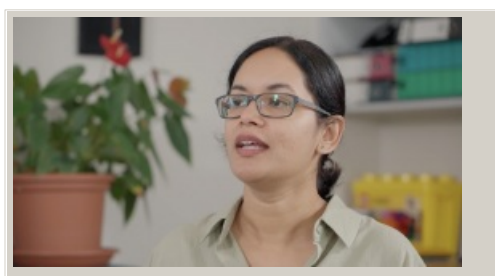
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Respond to language needs and interests

Komal Singh, a new entrant teacher at Wiri Central School, talks about how she has responded to ākongā language needs and interests using visuals, wall displays, class-made books and commenting.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/945992154>

Download [video](#)
[transcript](#).

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Develop language-teaching strategies



Source:

Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

<https://tewhariki.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/ng-rauemi-whakak-rero-talk-tools/5637165896.p>

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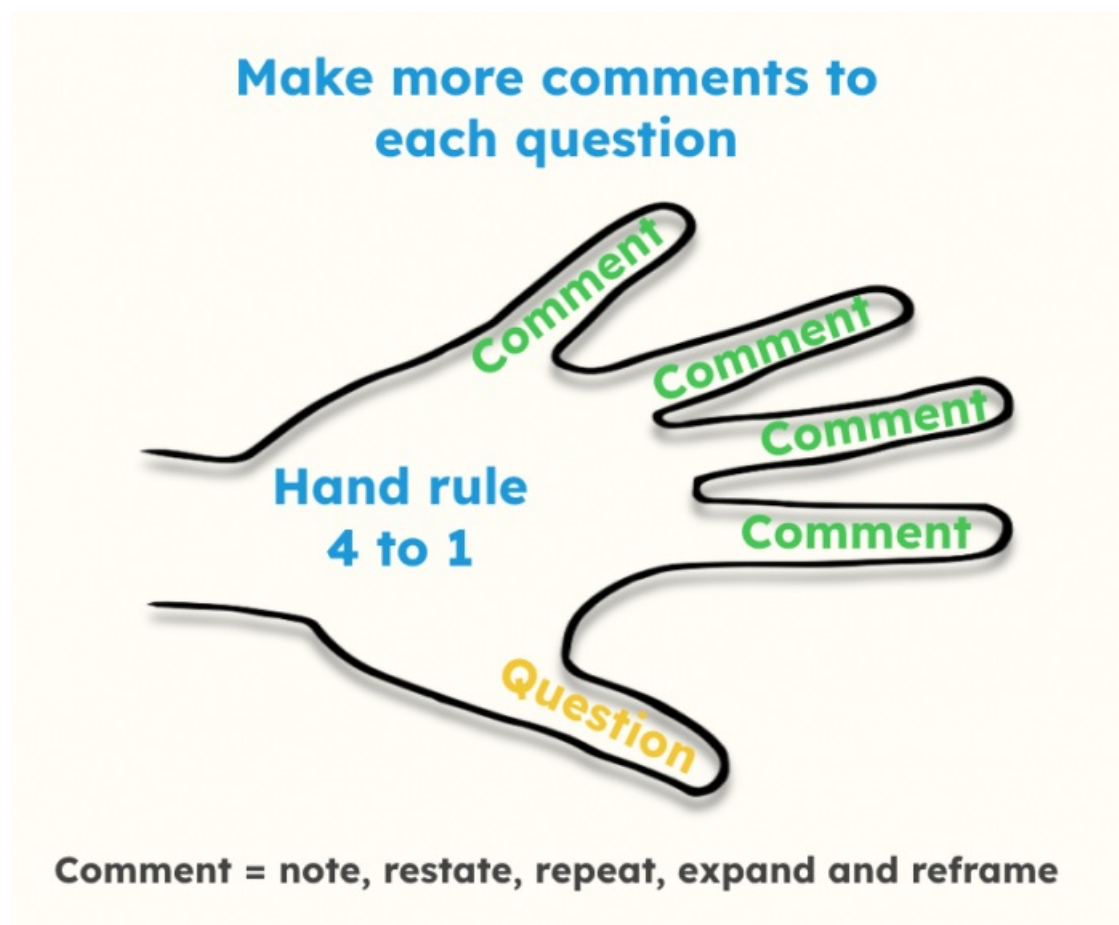
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Use comments to build language



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Use narrative approaches



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Extend language through play



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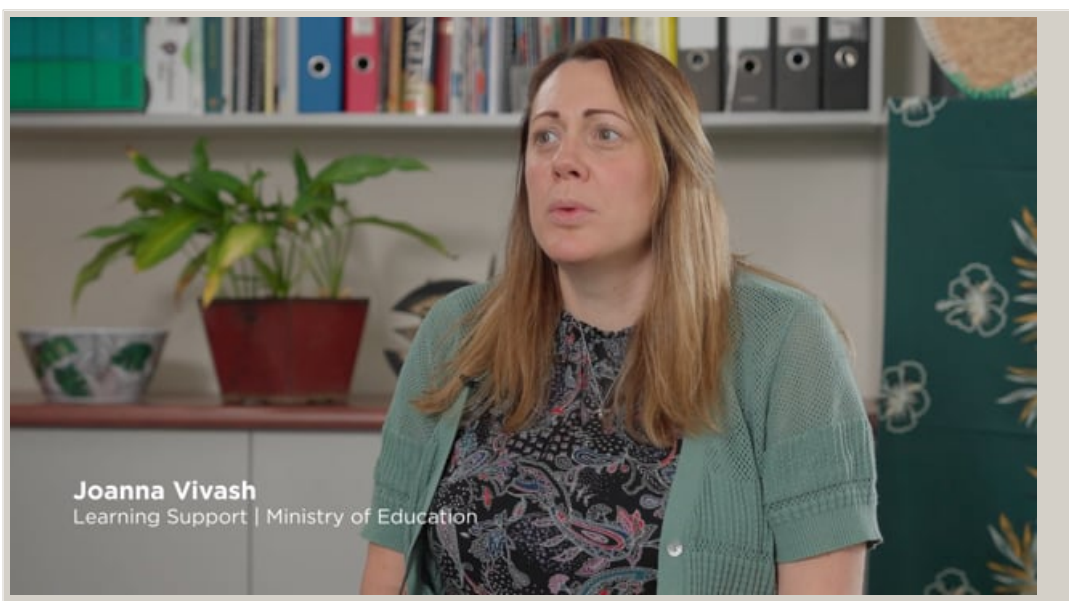
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Build topic-specific vocabulary

Use techniques that help students learn, understand and use key vocabulary related to a topic.

Download the video transcript as a PDF:

[Build topic-specific vocabulary - transcript](#)



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/945992019>

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