

# Support processing and planning

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

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- Includes:**
- Support attention, focus and independence
  - Use frameworks to support thinking and memory
  - Use a task board
  - Model planning and thinking
  - Support thinking
  - Use graphic organisers

Inclusive Education

From

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

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

Suggestion: [Support processing and planning](#)

Date

05 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/speech-language-and-communication/1-8-support-processing-and-planning](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/speech-language-and-communication/1-8-support-processing-and-planning)

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## Support attention, focus and independence

Aim to increase student independence by providing just enough support. Build these approaches into the way you teach.

- ✓ Break learning into short, focused and clearly defined tasks.
- ✓ Vary the level of demand from task to task.
- ✓ Provide clear instructions that are visually displayed and can be easily returned to.
- ✓ Vary the level of support as necessary and teach buddies how to provide support.
- ✓ Provide a variety of technologies to support learning, for example, an iPad or a computer.
- ✓ Create an activity box for times when the student needs a change of activity or time out.

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## Use frameworks to support thinking and memory

Te Tukanga Hoahoa Whakaara is a design thinking framework based on a Māori pūrākau or story. The story narrative helps ākonga to remember the steps in the design process.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/JScjuv3rgnA>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education](#)

<https://youtu.be/JScjuv3rgnA?si=Ua3hOkIzmvmzqWsE>

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## Use a task board



**Source:**

Strategies to support autistic students, Ministry of Education Vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/2950799/video/100662410>

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## Model planning and thinking



Source:

Laurie Sullivan

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/32561453@N05/8711384625/in/photolist-egN89D-egTTVS-egN86c-egN8kp-egTTA1-egN8tv-egN8ja-egTTPG-egTTXN-egN88e-egTTUC-egN8eX-egTTYj-egTTHQ-egN8di>

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## Support thinking

Tools and approaches to help students to recognise patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships.

- ✓ Explain new concepts clearly. Take the time to order or sequence information simply and clearly.
- ✓ Reinforce abstract concepts with visual and concrete materials.
- ✓ Use cultural and narrative frameworks to support retention and thinking.
- ✓ Use a mixture of telling, explaining and directing to convey information and instructions.
- ✓ Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas and relationships using visuals, mind maps, 3-D manipulatives, outlines, flow charts and real objects.
- ✓ Give students multiple opportunities to engage with new ideas and concepts.
- ✓ Use mind maps to brainstorm ideas and make connections.
- ✓ Support group and class discussions with visual annotations to prompt later recall of key ideas.
- ✓ Offer students a variety of graphic organisers and flow charts to support thinking in all curriculum areas.

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## Use graphic organisers

Break tasks into smaller pieces and highlight patterns with graphic organisers.

**Free graphic organiser templates** – MindMup



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/97273151>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education](#)

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