

Inclusive Education

From

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

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Suggestion: [Support social interaction](#)

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Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/speech-language-and-communication/support-social-interaction

Understand social norms, diversity and masking

Encourage and value diverse ways of interacting rather than expecting all learners to socialise in the same way.

For some students, pressure to adhere to social norms and mask or hide individual differences can cause anxiety, stress and exhaustion. Consider the ways that communication varies across cultures and contexts.

For example, eye contact may be an inappropriate social skills goal for some autistic people and people with anxieties. It is disrespectful in some cultures.

Appropriate social skills are those that support the individual's strengths, needs, personal goals and values. Work with whānau and ākongā to identify appropriate goals.

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