

# Foster collaboration and group work

Celebrate diversity by providing opportunities for ākonga to work with others using their strengths. Carefully design group or pair activities to suit learners and maximise productive interactions.

Develop approaches that celebrate diverse learners:

- Encourage tuakana-teina relationships and create a culture where students provide support for each other.
- Develop cross-cultural communication skills, learning about how conventions for conversation vary across cultures and contexts.
- Teach specific speaking and conversation skills. For example, rehearse ways to start and close a conversation, and to keep the conversation flowing.
- Practise conversation skills, appropriate for students, such as maintaining personal space between people, using eye contact, facial expressions and taking turns.
- Assign group roles such as speaker, listener, and note-taker to group members.
- Provide strategies to help students to listen actively to each other, share ideas, and recognise different points of view. For example, thinking tools such as De Bono's thinking hats.
- Create social stories that break down a task or social situation into small and easy-to-understand steps, accompanied by descriptive pictures.
- Monitor discussions to ensure all students understand the task and have opportunities to participate.

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