

Ask the learner what will help and consider a learner profile

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Know your Māori learners' from the Guide:

[Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Includes:

Ask what helps

Innovate with getting to know your learner

Let ākonga personalise learner profiles

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Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākongā Māori](#)

Strategy: [Know your Māori learners](#)

Suggestion: [Ask the learner what will help and consider a learner profile](#)

Date

06 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/consider-learner-profiles

Ask what helps

Māori rangatahi who identify as Deaf help schools to have a better understanding of their access and communication needs, and their aspirations.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/_4Zk4WDJkhs

Closed Captions

Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga (NZ)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4Zk4WDJkhs#t=103

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Innovate with getting to know your learner

Learner profiles can help school staff build relationships with ākongā and their whānau, understand their perspectives and design learning to meet learner needs. There are many creative and innovative ways to build knowledge about your learner.

Creative alternatives to learner profiles:

1. All About Me Interviews

- One-on-one chats with a teacher or peer using simple, structured questions.
- Use visuals or yes/no prompts.
- Record answers through voice, video, or drawing:
- "What do you like at school?"
- "What helps you learn?"

2. Video Introductions / Self-Presentations

- Learners record short videos introducing themselves.
- They can show their strengths, interests, and needs.
- Great for visual and verbal expression — use prompts or interview formats.

3. Photo Collages or Vision Boards

- Learners select photos of people, places, things, or activities they like.
- Use magazines, printed photos, or digital tools (like Canva or Book Creator).
- Add labels or short captions if appropriate.

4. Learning Choice Baskets

- Use a basket or box filled with objects that represent learning preferences (e.g., headphones, timer, picture of a friend, fidget, iPad).
- The learner selects what helps them learn best.
- You can record their choices as a profile.

5. Interactive Poster or Wall Display

Create a classroom wall or board where learners can add post-its or pictures under categories:

“I feel calm when...”

“I like learning with...”

“I want to get better at...”

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Let ākonga personalise learner profiles



Source:

[Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga](#)

<https://inclusive-live-storage-stack-asset-storage-s3bucket-3uty0hejzw6u.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/public/inclusive-education/resources/files/Example%2BLearner%2BProfile-Rachel.pdf>

[View full image \(1.2 MB\)](#)

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What to include in a learner profile

Discuss with ākonga and their whānau what information will help inform their learning.

- ✓ Important people
- ✓ Cultural connections and experiences
- ✓ Languages spoken
- ✓ Things the student is good at
- ✓ Memorable life experiences
- ✓ How they like to unwind and relax
- ✓ Likes and interests
- ✓ Dislikes and things they avoid
- ✓ How they like to learn and what helps
- ✓ Things that make it hard for them to learn
- ✓ What they do when they need help.

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Student suggestions

Student, Brigham Riwai-Couch shares his perspective of the top 10 things that make a difference for him as a learner.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/325105212>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Evaluation Associates Ltd.](#)

<https://vimeo.com/325105212>

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Useful resources



Cultural Relationships for Responsive Pedagogy video kete

A collection of videos, each supported by a summary of key content and a conversation framework.

Publisher: Poutama Pounamu

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