

Make cultural links between ākonga Māori stories and experiences to new ideas and concepts

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Co-design a culturally sustaining environment' from the Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Includes:

- Develop a culturally responsive approach
- Use authentic learning contexts
- Connect culture to learning
- Connect to personal experiences
- Support self-advocacy
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākonga Māori](#)

Strategy: [Co-design a culturally sustaining environment](#)

Suggestion: [Make cultural links between ākonga Māori stories and experiences to new ideas and concepts](#)

Date

06 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/make-cultural-links-between-maori-students-stories-and-experiences-to-new-ideas-and-concepts

Develop a culturally responsive approach

Russell Bishop explains how ākonga must be able to bring their own experiences to the classroom and see that their experiences are accepted and valued. Then, Māori will be part of the learning process as Māori.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/111160942>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Te Kotahitanga \(NZ\)](#)

<http://tekotahitanga.tki.org.nz/Videos/Interviews/Changing-Maori-educational-experiences>

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Use authentic learning contexts

To learn Māori words for kai, learners are making pizza. They are supported with text and visual cues in this cooperative activity.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/259760316>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

He Reo Tupu, He Reo Ora (NZ)

<http://hereoora.tki.org.nz/Videos/What-to-do-with-the-resources/Pathways-to-learning>

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Connect culture to learning

At Tolaga Bay Area School, teacher Julie McLaughlin brings cultural context into learning. In this example of ako, everyone in the classroom, including the teacher, is a learner.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/113877056>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

[Te Mangōroa \(NZ\)](#)

<http://temangoroa.tki.org.nz/Video-stories/TMK-Culture-counts-1>

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Connect to personal experiences

Support learners to make connections within relevant contexts, such as sharing a mihi.

They'd feel a lot more confident talking about something that they were certain about, like their heritage, rather than something that they had gone and taken out of, say, library books, to present to the class.

Linda Sweeny, Associate Principal, Te Kura o Tiori Burnham School

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Beyond-the-classroom/Engaging-with-the-community/Sharing-a-mihi>

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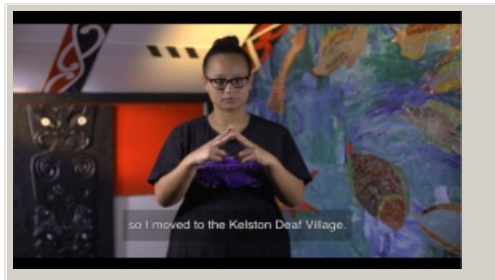
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Support self-advocacy

Deaf rangatahi share what is important to them and how it has inspired their learning. Create opportunities for learners to share their needs and aspirations in ways that work for them.



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

Closed Captions

Source:

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

https://youtu.be/_4Zk4WDJkhs

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Useful resources



Tātaiako: cultural competencies for teachers of Māori learners

Tātaiako is a resource to support teachers to develop cultural competence to successfully teach Māori learners.

Publisher: Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand

[Visit website](#)

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