

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting ākongā Māori](#)

Strategy: [Establish reciprocal relationships](#)

Suggestion: [Partner with whānau, parents, and caregivers](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-akonga-maori/partner-with-whanau-parents-and-caregivers

What to ask whānau

Connect with whānau to understand the strengths and needs of their child.

Find out about:

Tribal structures and cultural practices:

- whakapapa (genealogy)
- who they consider to be whānau
- tikanga – cultural values and practices they use (language, customs, traditions)
- about their marae.

People in the learner's life:

- parent and whānau hopes and priorities for them
- the important people in the learner's life
- the best methods and times to communicate with whānau
- the professionals working with the whānau
- the questions they have and the support they would like from the school.

Practical elements:

- the language/s spoken at home
- ākongā medications and allergies
- the equipment used at home
- what they do at home to support learning.

Learner's likes and dislikes:

- their likes, interests, what they're good at, need help with, and can do independently
- their dislikes, what can upset them, how they express this, and their calming skills
- their favourite hobbies, books, songs, sports, TV programmes.

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.
