Inclusive Education

From

Guide: Supporting ākonga Māori

Strategy: Establish reciprocal relationships

Suggestion: Partner with whānau, parents, and caregivers

Date

30 August 2025

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 whanau
- 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 whanau
- the professionals working with the whanau
- the questions they have and the support they would like from the school.

Practical elements:

- the language/s spoken at home
- ākonga 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.

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