

# Ask the learner what will help

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Know your Pacific learners' from the Guide:  
[Supporting Pacific learners](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Find out about students
- Support self-advocacy with learner profiles
- Build an interactive profile of your learner
- Innovate with getting to know your learner
- Let students personalise learner profiles
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting Pacific learners](#)

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Date

10 July 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/ask-the-student-what-will-help-and-consider-a-learner-profile](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/ask-the-student-what-will-help-and-consider-a-learner-profile)

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## Find out about students

Kaiako and ākonga talk about creating environments with students at the centre, where Pacific students have the focus and learning support they need.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/120408493>

Closed Captions

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## Support self-advocacy with learner profiles

Create opportunities where students can tell you what supports their learning and what gets in the way.

Having students create a learner profile for themselves is a great way to have them develop a better and fuller understanding of who they are as learners ...

This develops their independence and places them in a better position to self-advocate for the tools, learning materials, and presentation options that can optimise their learning experiences.

**Naryn Searcy**

**Source:**  
UDL Resource

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## Build an interactive profile of your learner

Provide alternatives to traditional learner profiles that are more student-interactive, engaging, and inclusive.

- ✓ 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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## **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 students personalise learner profiles



Source:

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

<https://inclusive-live-storagestack-assetstorages3bucket-3uty0hejzw6u.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/public/inclusive-education/resources/files/Example%2BLearner%2BProfile-Rachel.pdf>

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

Encourage students to present their information in a media that works for them and reflects who they are.

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## Useful resources



### PATH Planning

PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) is an ākonga and whānau centred approach to meeting specific learner needs.

Publisher: Interactionz

[Visit website](#)

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