

# Support Pacific learners with English as a second language

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

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

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## **Includes:**

- Create digital stories
- Utilise students' first language
- Bilingual benefits
- Support assessment
- Use first language texts
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Supporting Pacific learners](#)

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

Suggestion: [Support Pacific learners with English as a second language](#)

Date

01 September 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/support-pacific-learners-with-english-as-a-second-language](http://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-pacific-learners/support-pacific-learners-with-english-as-a-second-language)

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## Create digital stories

Kimi Ora  
Community  
School  
teacher,  
Bridget  
Harrison  
shares how  
they use  
digital  
stories to  
support  
students  
with English  
as a second  
language.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/62757811>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Learning-areas/English/Improving-student-writing-with-digital-stories>

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## Utilise students' first language

Students like being able to work in two languages.

Offer students the opportunity to discuss learning in their first language.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/114061793>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

Pasifika Education Community (NZ)

<http://pasifika.tki.org.nz/Media-gallery/Language-enhancing-the-achievement-of-Pasifika-LEAP/Being-bilingual2>

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## Bilingual benefits

Develop a school-wide policy to support the use and development of students' first languages.

Encourage students to use all their languages in the classroom to support each other in understanding new concepts.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/114061794>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Pasifika Education Community \(NZ\)](#)

<https://vimeo.com/114061794>

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## Support assessment

Filimanaia Akata Galuvao outlines how culture, background knowledge, and experiences play a vital part in student assessment.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/110227026>

Closed Captions

Source:

[EDtalks \(NZ\)](#)

<http://edtalks.org/#/video/samoan-students-dance-beat-new-zealand-assessments>

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## Use first language texts



Source:

[Literacy Online](#)

<https://literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Planning-for-my-students-needs/Pasifika-dual-language-books>

[View full image \(2.9 MB\)](#)

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## Useful resources



### Pasifika dual language books

A series of texts to help new entrant Pasifika children transition to English medium schools. These early reading books come in five Pasifika languages (Gagana Sāmoa, Lea Faka-Tonga, Cook Islands Māori, Gagana Tokelau, and Vagahau Niue) and English.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

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