

Organise a collaborative environment

A suggestion for implementing the strategy '
Facilitate collaborative learning' from the
Guide: [Positive peer relationships](#)

Includes:

- Provide flexible learning spaces
- Facilitate a positive environment
- Consider classroom layout
- Support student preferences
- Useful resources

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From

Guide: [Supporting positive peer relationships](#)

Strategy: [Facilitate collaborative learning](#)

Suggestion: [Organise a collaborative environment](#)

Date

28 August 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/supporting-positive-peer-relationships/organise-a-collaborative-environment

Provide flexible learning spaces



Source:

Tātai Aho Rau Core Education

<https://core-ed.org/>

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Facilitate a positive environment

Create a warm classroom climate to facilitate positive learning and social behaviours.

- ✓ Set clear boundaries and high standards and expectations.
- ✓ Be fair.
- ✓ Be aware of, acknowledge, and label your own feelings.
- ✓ Acknowledge and affirm students' feelings.
- ✓ Talk through emotional situations.
- ✓ View emotional events as “teachable moments.”
- ✓ Avoid punitive tactics, put-downs, sarcasm and criticism – specify the positive alternatives.
- ✓ Be self-accepting, confident, and secure.
- ✓ Remain calm – your emotional state is mirrored by students.
- ✓ Develop student supports.
- ✓ Accept and empathise with students' feelings
- ✓ Listen with interest.

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Consider classroom layout

Design your classroom layout to support students with varying learning needs and preferences in their collaboration.

- Choose a flexible layout that adapts to the learner, rather than limiting the learner.
- Offer seating patterns, configurations, and spaces to facilitate social exchanges among students alongside quiet reflection time.
- Provide a variety of technologies to support participation, communication, and collaboration.
- Use visual supports such as timers, visual displays, and graphic organisers to support self management.
- Provide different types of furniture to support students' varying physical needs and preferences (for example, wobbly stools for students who move to concentrate).

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Support student preferences



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Useful resources



Building an inclusive classroom culture

This guide provides New Zealand illustrations of the distinguishing features of classrooms that value diversity and are truly inclusive.

[Visit website](#)

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