

Get to know whānau | Te mōhio ki te whānau

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Nurture whānau partnerships |

Whanaungatanga' from the Guide: [Te Ara Ako](#)

– [Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Includes:

Whakataukī

Why this matters | Te take

Promote whānau voice | Te reo o te whānau

Strengthen opportunities to meet that work for whānau | Hui ā-whānau

Acknowledge cultural and community connections | Ngā hononga ahurea, hāpori hoki

Encourage whānau aspirations | Ngā wawata o te whānau

Useful resources | He rauemi

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Te Ara Ako – Learning pathways in times of change](#)

Strategy: [Nurture whānau partnerships | Whanaungatanga](#)

Suggestion: [Get to know whānau | Te mōhio ki te whānau](#)

Date

15 June 2026

Link

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Why this matters | Te take



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Promote whānau voice | Te reo o te whānau

Applying the principles of partnership means listening to whānau and their education journey. Identify what is needed to build safety and trust.

Whānau will come with many differing experiences of inclusion and exclusion in education for themselves and their child, which will make them eager to partner with settings or anxious and fearful about further rejection.

Frian Wadia MNZM (Parent/Early Intervention Specialist/Facilitator)

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Strengthen opportunities to meet that work for whānau | Hui ā-whānau

- ✓ Ask whānau how they would like to meet and greet members of their new school. What works for one family may not work for another (rangatiratanga).
- ✓ Arrange one-on-one meetings with classroom kaiako and support staff in a way that suits whānau.
- ✓ Connect whānau with existing parent networks or support groups, if applicable.
- ✓ Offer school visits at different times of the day.

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Acknowledge cultural and community connections | Ngā hononga ahurea, hāpori hoki

- ✓ Ask yourself: Are the child's cultures, languages, and identities visible in the classroom or in the school? If not, what can be done to be more inclusive?
- ✓ Connect the transitioning whānau with existing cultural groups in your setting to build a sense of belonging.
- ✓ Host events that connect and enhance cultural ties and community.
- ✓ Is there a parent buddy system to help new parents feel comfortable in the new setting? Are they culturally safe? Some parents feel disconnected from education and this can be a barrier. How can you build belonging?
- ✓ Invite whānau and ākongā to participate in events and celebrations.
- ✓ Ask how whānau can find out more about you and your values in teaching and learning.

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Encourage whānau aspirations | Ngā wawata o te whānau



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Useful resources | He rauemi



Whānau connections guide

Use this printable guide to help gather valuable information about what matters to whānau.

Publisher: Ministry of Education NZ

[Download](#) DOCX (31 KB)



Listen to what matters to whānau

Research from Tātai Aho Rau Core Education, in partnership with Rātā Foundation, outlines their aim to create effective transitions that are whānau-led. Watch the positive outcomes of this project here.

Publisher: Tātai Aho Rau Core Education

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