

Identify learner needs

A suggestion for implementing the strategy
'Reduce barriers to learning' from the Guide:
[Technology tools for learning](#)

Includes:

- Ask what helps
- Checklist for knowing learners
- Partner with whānau
- Make informed decisions
- Support self-reflection
- Understand your students' needs

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From

Guide: [Technology tools for learning](#)

Strategy: [Reduce barriers to learning](#)

Suggestion: [Identify learner needs](#)

Date

11 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/technology-tools-for-learning/identify-learner-needs

Ask what helps



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Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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Checklist for knowing learners

Look for anything that is going to help you as you consider a range of potential tools and supports.

Consider these factors:

- culture, language, and identity
- environments and spaces where the learning will happen (classroom, home)
- demographics (age group, local connections, and affiliations)
- learning-related data
- medical or health conditions
- knowledge of learner preferences, abilities, and interests
- personal connections and relationships
- wairua, wellbeing, and moral and physical health
- individual learner goals and aspirations.

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Partner with whānau

Connect with parents, whānau, and caregivers to understand the strengths and needs of learners.

Make connections wherever you can.

- ✓ Invite families to share approaches that are successful at home.
- ✓ Identify potential barriers and ask families for solutions based on their personal experiences and expertise.
- ✓ Encourage whānau to share successful tools and equipment they use at home.
- ✓ Ask families to share a learner's likes and interests, what they're good at, what they need help with, and what they can do independently.

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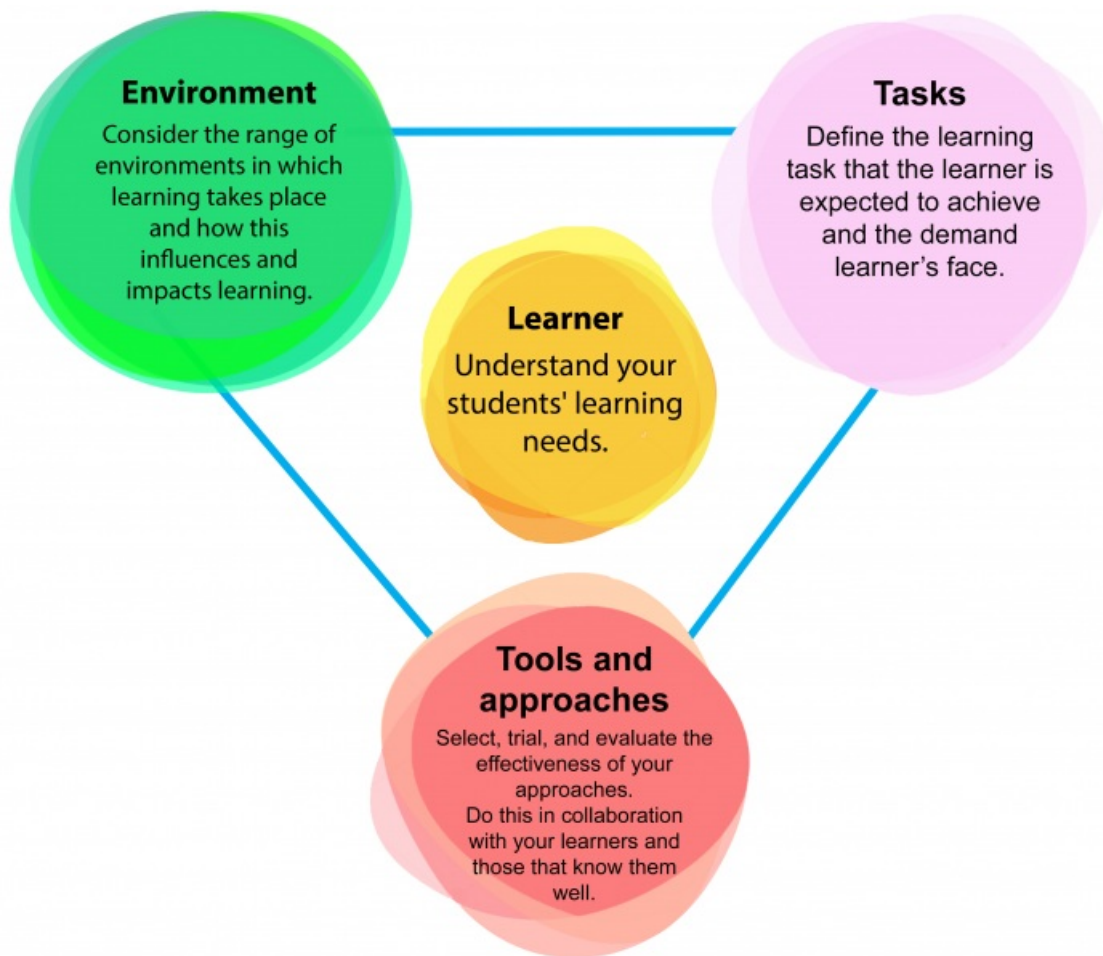
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[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/technology-tools-for-learning/identify-learner-needs](https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/technology-tools-for-learning/identify-learner-needs)

Make informed decisions



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/digital-technology/devices/assistive-technology/applying-for-assistive-technology/>

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Support self-reflection



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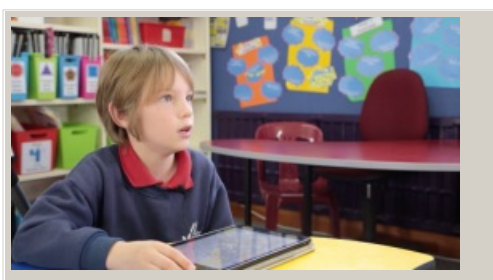
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Understand your students' needs

Felix, a Year 5 student, explains how accessing information through video and using text-to-speech helps to make his learning easier.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/105617225>

[View transcript](#)

Source:

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

<https://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Inclusive-practice/Universal-Design-for-Learning/Using-an-iPad-to-support-learning>

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