

# Address parent and whānau concerns, particularly around safety and making friends

A suggestion for implementing the strategy  
'Partner with the family/whānau' from the  
Guide: [Transitions – managing times of change](#)

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## **Includes:**

- Discuss processes and rules
- Minimise parent anxiety
- Transfer supports
- Use Social Stories™
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Transitions – managing times of change](#)

Strategy: [Partner with the family/whānau](#)

Suggestion: [Address parent and whānau concerns, particularly around safety and making friends](#)

Date

11 July 2025

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/transitions-managing-times-of-change/address-parent-and-whanau-concerns-particularly-around-safety-and-making-friends](https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/transitions-managing-times-of-change/address-parent-and-whanau-concerns-particularly-around-safety-and-making-friends)

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## Discuss processes and rules

Make time for in-depth discussion with the student and all members of the team.

Discuss any additional needs your student may have and how these will be catered for.

Your discussion may include:

- ✓ processes for contacting the school if there are any concerns about bullying
- ✓ school boundaries and safety measures that ensure students remain within the school grounds
- ✓ processes to ensure safety on school trip
- ✓ processes for storing and giving medication and for dealing with allergies or medical conditions
- ✓ familiarisation with the school rules
- ✓ developing a care plan or a health plan
- ✓ safety plans for eating and toileting.

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## Minimise parent anxiety

Successful transitions  
minimise risks and  
anxiety.

- ✓ Ensure students and parents/whānau know who is who in the school.
- ✓ Provide names (with photos) and contact details of the team who will be working with the new student.
- ✓ Share contact details and set up a process for regular on-going contact with parents/whānau so that concerns can be addressed as they arise.
- ✓ Make a point of regularly calling the student's home, blogging, or sharing a student's work when they have done something positive.

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## Transfer supports



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

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## Use Social Stories™

Create Social Stories™ that enable the student to practise strategies and behaviours that address specific situations of concern, and that support social interaction and participation.

- ✓ [TKI ASD in Education website](#) provides a Social Stories learning module for educators.
- ✓ [Social Stories Creator and Library](#) is a free download for iPhone and iPad

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## Useful resources



### Learning support

Information for parents and caregivers on the learning support available to them and how to access it from the Ministry of Education

[Visit website](#)

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