

Set up social supports, advocacy, and go-to people

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Prepare for a new student with additional needs in the classroom' from the Guide:

[Transitions – managing times of change](#)

Includes:

Ways to welcome new students

Being a buddy

Peer support

Use class blogs

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

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

Strategy: [Prepare for a new student with additional needs in the classroom](#)

Suggestion: [Set up social supports, advocacy, and go-to people](#)

Date

01 July 2025

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/transitions-managing-times-of-change/set-up-social-supports-advocacy-and-go-to-people

Ways to welcome new students

Discuss ways to welcome and support the new student with the class.

Suggestions can include:

- ✓ sending an email or a letter from the class
- ✓ sharing food and mihi on their first day
- ✓ creating a welcome booklet
- ✓ welcoming a hearing-impaired student using NZSL
- ✓ inviting a student to be a buddy to the new student to provide social and in-class support.

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Being a buddy

Support students by giving them clear guidelines on how to be a good buddy.

Possible tasks for a buddy include:

- partnering with the new student for classroom activities
- introducing the new student to others, and including them in games and activities both inside the classroom and at break times
- explaining classroom and school rules, systems, and timetabled activities as they arise
- assisting with carrying any assistive technologies from one class to another
- having lunch with the new student.

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Peer support

A high school student describes how a peer provides practical support when he transitions between classes.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/61762057>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling eLearning \(NZ\)](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Inclusive-classrooms/Universal-Design-for-Learning/Partnership-with-peers-supports-effective-access-to-learning>

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Use class blogs



Source:

[Room 2 Morningside School](#)

<http://room2adventures.blogspot.co.nz/2013/10/welcome-to-room-2-tupuarangi.html>

[View full image \(1.1 MB\)](#)

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Useful resources



Springboards 2 Practice: Social Skills

A Ministry of Education resource that discusses how social skills can be fostered in schools.

[Download](#) PDF (1.7 MB)



Classroom accommodations to help students with learning and attention issues

A US website that provides "at a glance" accommodations for a range of learning needs. It includes dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD and sensory processing.

Publisher: Understood

[Visit website](#)

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