

Match teaching methods to student preferences

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Design considerations in primary settings'

from the Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Includes:

Flexibility and choice is highly valued

Use multiple approaches

Communicate in multiple ways

Know your learners

Reflection questions

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Match teaching methods to student preferences](#)

Date

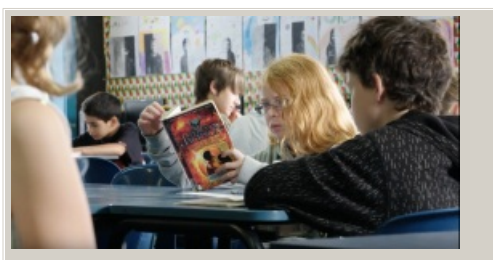
09 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/match-teaching-methods-to-student-preferences-2

Flexibility and choice is highly valued

Learners share why having ownership over learning pathways supports their motivation and engagement in learning.



Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/220718788>

Closed Captions

Source:

[Ministry of Education, inclusive education videos \(NZ\)](https://vimeo.com/album/2950799)
<https://vimeo.com/album/2950799>

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Match teaching methods to student preferences](#)

Date

09 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/match-teaching-methods-to-student-preferences-2

Use multiple approaches

Consider learner variability from the outset.

- ✓ social and collaborative learning
- ✓ student-directed/teacher-directed learning
- ✓ independent learning
- ✓ project work
- ✓ direct instruction.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Match teaching methods to student preferences](#)

Date

09 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/match-teaching-methods-to-student-preferences-2

Communicate in multiple ways



Source:

Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

[View full image \(3.2 MB\)](#)

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Match teaching methods to student preferences](#)

Date

09 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/match-teaching-methods-to-student-preferences-2

Know your learners

To plan learning experiences that will give all learners opportunities to make connections to new concepts, teachers need to understand what each student brings to their learning.

Gather and analyse a wide range of information about learners, from:

- achievement
- observations
- conversations with them
- conversations with their peers, families, and whānau.

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Match teaching methods to student preferences](#)

Date

09 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/match-teaching-methods-to-student-preferences-2

Reflection questions

Reflect on the following statements, then ask students to share their perspectives.

How do I create opportunities for students to connect learning to their culture, interests and things that matter to them?

How do I activate background knowledge and draw attention to critical features in varied and flexible ways?

How do I ensure students have the supports, options, and challenges they need to demonstrate their understanding in ways that work for them?

How can I increase opportunities for students to use their first languages in learning?

In what ways could I provide students access to learning if they are absent from class?

How do I offer multiple opportunities for students to learn from and with others?

[Inclusive Education](#)

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design considerations in primary settings](#)

Suggestion: [Match teaching methods to student preferences](#)

Date

09 July 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/match-teaching-methods-to-student-preferences-2

Useful resources



Ask your students how you can become a better teacher

A blog post by Chrissie Butler from CORE Education. Chrissie provides questions and prompts for teachers to consider when designing learning environments.

[Visit website](#)

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.