

Ako Explored

Six principles for learning and teaching –
A suite of effective resources for improving learner outcomes



Principle 1

The foundation of effective ako is in knowing ākonga, the strengths they bring, and the challenges they face in learning.

What are the benefits?

Knowing your ākonga and the demands of the learning, provides the foundation for effective teaching and allows you to adapt as you go to create more successful outcomes.

What might this look like in practice?

- Check out what universal design for learning practices might offer in terms of how you structure your learning for the diversity of ākonga in your cohort.
- Use the UDL principles to help identify barriers to learning, and remove these, when planning learning and teaching activities.

Questions for consideration

What tools, strategies and activities can you use to get to know your learners better? Have you considered attitude surveys, soft skills surveys, focus groups, learner presentations?

Where can I find out more?

- View the full document and resources on Ako Explored project page on the Ako Aotearoa website.
<https://ako.ac.nz/ako-explored>
- See what the Ministry of Education has to say about UDL and inclusive education:
<https://inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/>
- Check out the UDL pathway on Ako Aotearoa's Pathways Awarua. <https://pathwaysawarua.com/educator/udl>
- Access the original book on Universal Design for Learning by Meyer, Rose, and Gordon. <https://www.cast.org/news/2022/read-universal-design-learning-udl-theory-practice-free-inclusive>
- Watch some educators talking about the ways in which they get to know and support ākongā.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/ako-explored/know-your-learners-associate-professor-christian-schott>,
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/ako-explored/know-your-learners-dr-cami-sawyer>

Please note: The image on the reverse side is titled 'Inter-relationships between the principles', taken from page 15 of the Ako Explored report.



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