

Ako Explored

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



Principle 3

Ako requires positive interpersonal relationships.

What are the benefits?

In a learning environment where relationships are central, ākonga are assisted to take joint responsibility for their learning and, in the process, develop deeper understanding of their subject and its impact in practice.

What might this look like in practice?

- Build a warm learning climate where errors are not only tolerated but welcomed and used as a catalyst for learning, deeper understanding, and reducing anxiety.
- Celebrate, actively value, and support the voices of ākonga who think differently, using this as an opportunity for deepening understanding.

Questions for consideration

What strategies do you have in your toolkit to ensure sharing, discussion, dialogue, or debate is solution-focused, respectful, honouring of diversity, productive, and leads to enhanced learning and outcomes for all? How do you handle any difficulties that arise?

Where can I find out more?

- View the full document and Ako Explored webpages on the Ako Aotearoa website. <https://ako.ac.nz/ako-explored>
- Book a workshop on professional relationships and boundaries with the Ako Aotearoa Professional Learning team. <https://ako.ac.nz/professional-learning/in-house-workshop/teaching-practicestrategies/clarifying-boundaries-in-teacher-student-relationships-for-safe-practice>
- See how BCITO | Te Pūkenga Workplace Learning Advisors place relationships at the core of learning. <https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/ako-explored/bcito-te-pukenga-relevance-of-the-principles>
- Discover the importance of relationships in establishing and nurturing culturally responsive practice.
Rātima, M.P., Smith, J.P., Macfarlane, A.H., Riki, N.M., Jones, K-L., & Davies, L.K. (2022) (Eds.). *Ngā hau e whā o Tāwhirimātea: Culturally responsive teaching and learning for the tertiary sector*. Canterbury University Press. <https://ir.canterbury.ac.nz/items/da826c9f-32f2-409f-8c98-117edd550fb0>

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



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.



Scan QR code to view
the Ako Explored
project page



This project was funded by Ako Aotearoa
www.ako.ac.nz

