

Ako Explored

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



Principle 4

A focus on experience, and the opportunity to reflect on it, complements and strengthens ako.

What are the benefits?

The inclusion of experience and reflection allows ākonga to connect new information to pre-existing knowledge and consider ways in which to accommodate it. It also allows for vibrant and challenging discussion when multiple viewpoints and experiences are shared.

What might this look like in practice?

- Create an environment in which learning is an active experience. Make it clear that everyone's experience is respected.
- Model techniques for activating background knowledge, such as brainstorming, and graphic organisers, like mind maps and KWL charts. Practise activating background knowledge with learners on a regular basis, so they get into the habit of doing this whenever they are presented with new learning or ideas.

Questions for consideration

In what ways do you create opportunities for ākonga to share their experiences that relate to the learning being explored? How do you challenge these appropriately and encourage them to think more critically when required?

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>
- Watch how 2021 awardee Hazel Tucker, uses a broad array of inclusive pedagogies to address very complex issues by maximising the experiences her diverse students bring to learning.
<https://ako.ac.nz/knowledge-centre/ako-explored/experience-professor-hazel-tucker>
- Check out Work-Integrated Learning New Zealand’s website for multiple ways to incorporate experience into learning.
<https://www.wilnz.nz/>
- View a simple example of activating prior knowledge to enhance learning.
<https://ako.ac.nz/assets/Knowledge-centre/ALNACC-Resources/NCEA-Level-1-Literacy-and-Numeracy-Standards-Resources/TEACHING-AND-LEARNING-SEQUENCE-Activating-prior-knowledge.pdf>

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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This project was funded by Ako Aotearoa
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