



Putting It All Together

New Zealand Curriculum Matching Grid

The refreshed New Zealand Curriculum English Years 0–6 (Te Mātaiaho) supports students in developing foundational skills in oral language, reading and writing.

This curriculum-matching grid demonstrates how the Seven Steps to Writing Success aligns with the strands and sub-strands in the curriculum by encouraging students to discuss and analyse a wide range of texts and then experiment with the techniques they have learnt when creating their own texts.

By integrating the Seven Steps approach into English instruction, you can enhance student engagement and achievement, foster a love of literacy, and building essential communication skills.

Seven Steps

Step 1: Plan for Success

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Step 3: Tightening Tension

Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Step 5: Show, Don't Tell

Step 6: Ban the Boring

Step 7: Exciting Endings / Endings with Impact

ORAL LANGUAGE								
SUB-STRANDS	HOW DOES SEVEN STEPS COVER THIS?	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7
<p>Communicating ideas and information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal reasoning • Presenting to others • Taking on roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Plan for Success – Helps students structure and communicate ideas and information for different purposes • Step 2: Sizzling Starts – Teaches students how to engage an audience immediately in oral recounts, storytelling, presentations and debates. • Step 3: Tightening Tension – Helps students build interest when retelling familiar stories, sharing personal experiences and conveying information. • Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue – Encourages students to experiment with conversational language and expressive speech in recitals, role-plays, discussions and presentations. • Step 7: Endings with Impact – Supports students in summarising key points effectively when sharing ideas and presenting to others. 							
<p>Interpersonal communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-verbal communication • Listening and responding to others • Controlling voice using tone, volume, and pace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 3: Tightening Tension – Teaches students how to vary pace and tone for effect. • Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue – Encourages students to think about how body language adds meaning to words. • Step 6: Ban the Boring – Encourages clear, concise and engaging discussions. 							
<p>Vocabulary and grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary • Sentence structure and morphology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 5: Show, Don't Tell – Encourages precise and engaging word choice to express ideas and improve expression. 							
<p>Communication for learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metacognition • Self-regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Plan for Success – Builds metacognitive skills by helping students structure their ideas before expressing them and verbalise their ideas before writing them. • Step 6: Ban the Boring – Develops students' ability to use the techniques they have learnt to provide and respond to feedback when revising and improving their work. 							

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READING								
SUB-STRANDS	HOW DOES SEVEN STEPS COVER THIS?	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7
<p>Word recognition and reading enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonemic awareness and phonics knowledge Decoding Conventions of print Fluency Developing reader identity 	Not explicitly covered by the Seven Steps							
<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary Sentence Text forms and genre Text structure, style, and features Comprehension monitoring Summarising and drawing conclusions Inferring using evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1: Plan for Success – Develops students’ understanding of different text structures, styles and features. Students also learn to identify the audience, purpose and key message or idea. Step 2: Sizzling Starts – Help students identify the features of a great start and the techniques used to engage the reader immediately. Step 3: Tightening Tension – Supports comprehension by helping students understand the techniques authors use to build interest and momentum in a text. Step 5: Show, Don’t Tell – Develops students’ vocabulary and inferencing skills by encouraging them to visualise descriptions and analyse evidence in texts. Step 7: Exciting Endings/Endings with Impact – Reinforces comprehension by encouraging students to make predictions and reflect on how an ending affects them. 							
<p>Critical literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying perspectives Connecting and responding Making connections and interpretations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1: Plan for Success – Helps students deconstruct existing texts to identify the author’s purpose, perspective and how this affects the reader. Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue – Helps students understand different perspectives through character conversations and quotations in texts. Step 6: Ban the Boring – Encourages students to evaluate what makes a text engaging and effective as the basis for expressing their personal preferences and opinions. 							

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WRITING								
SUB-STRANDS	HOW DOES SEVEN STEPS COVER THIS?	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7
Transcription skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handwriting Keyboarding Spelling 	Not explicitly covered by the Seven Steps							
Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing to entertain Writing to inform Writing to persuade Audience, purpose, and task Sentence structures and punctuation Digital texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1: Plan for Success – Helps students plan engaging narrative, persuasive and informative texts that suit the audience and purpose. Step 2: Sizzling Starts – Helps students write great starts that hook the audience immediately and make them want to read more. Step 3: Tightening Tension – Helps students order their ideas, arguments and information to build tension and momentum in their writing. Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue – Teaches students how to use dialogue and quotations to enhance a text. Step 5: Show, Don't Tell – Develops students' ability to write vivid descriptions and gather evidence to support their ideas and opinions. Step 7: Exciting Endings/Endings with Impact – Helps students craft strong endings that wrap up the text and satisfy the reader. 							
Writing craft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word choice Language features and devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 5: Show, Don't Tell – Encourages students to think carefully about their choice of words and how they affect the reader. Step 6: Ban the Boring – Helps students improve the structure and expression of their writing using the language features and devices they have learnt. 							
Writing processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Drafting Revising Editing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1: Plan for Success – Helps students come up with great ideas, research information and plan texts using the Story Graph before they write. Steps 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 – Helps students draft engaging texts using the techniques that professional authors use. Step 6: Ban the Boring – Encourages students to revise and improve their writing by removing unnecessary details and improving the structure and expression. 							