

risky business





# Language MATTERS

Because words shape how  
we see each other

## Conversation starter...

- What is a risk?
- Are risks different for disabled people and non-disabled people? Why or why not?



**CCS**  
**disability action**  
Including all people

TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOA

## Think about...

- Many disabled people talk about feeling like they are overprotected or 'wrapped in cotton wool'.
- Disabled people are often discouraged or prevented from taking risks.
- Though it may come from a place of caring, discouraging risk can limit people's chances of having the life they want.
- The life they want might include moving out of home, applying for a job, or exploring intimate relationships.
- Taking risks can be scary but also bring joy and personal growth. It can be thrilling to 'feel the fear and do it anyway'.

## Next time...

- Question your assumptions about whether disabled people need protection.
- Respect people's right to make their own choices.
- Remember to respect people's mana.

Continue the conversation at  
[www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz/language matters](http://www.ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz/language matters)