

## Trend Task: Suzy

Approach: One to one  
Focus: Relationships  
Resources: Picture

Year: 4 & 8

### Questions / instructions:



#### Show picture.

Here is a picture of Suzy. Suzy isn't feeling too good. She often gets angry with others – she gets into lots of bad moods, and she's got a really bad temper sometimes. Suzy wishes she didn't get so angry and that she could control her temper.

- What are some things Suzy could do when she feels that she is going to lose her temper or get into a bad mood with people?

avoidance/escape (walking away) 53 (63) 71 (61)

self control approaches 72 (53) 79 (65)

explaining what/how she's thinking/feeling to people she is angry with 12 (10) 14 (11)

asking others (3rd party) for help 17 (23) 23 (21)

#### Overall quality and mix of ideas:

excellent/very good 2 (1) 7 (0)

good 20 (18) 32 (20)

moderate 43 (43) 45 (50)

very limited 35 (38) 16 (30)

Suzy has just thrown a big wobbly with her friend. She needs to do something about it.

- What do you think Suzy should do?

getting outside help to improve relationship 9 (6) 7 (7)

unspecific mention of talking to friend 4 (3) 5 (2)

#### Dealing with the past:

(what has happened) ignoring it 6 (5) 3 (7)

trying to understand why it happened (self analysis) 6 (5) 8 (5)

apologising 77 (72) 87 (76)

explaining to friend why she got angry 17 (14) 28 (34)

#### Addressing the future:

being extra nice to friend 19 (9) 17 (10)

learning how to control anger 7 (0) 8 (9)

sorting out with friend how to deal with disagreements 5 (2) 10 (6)

#### Overall quality and mix of ideas:

excellent/very good 1 (0) 1 (1)

good 12 (3) 19 (13)

moderate 40 (31) 48 (42)

very limited 47 (66) 32 (44)

**Total score:** 4–6 8 (3) 17 (7)

3 13 (7) 20 (16)

2 28 (26) 31 (29)

1 27 (31) 23 (26)

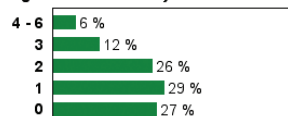
0 24 (33) 9 (22)

### Subgroup Analyses:

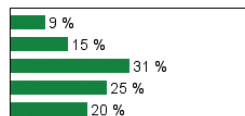
#### Year 4

##### Score Range

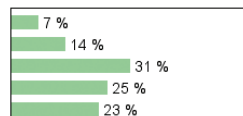
##### Boys



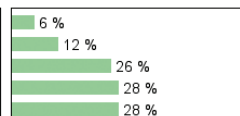
##### Girls



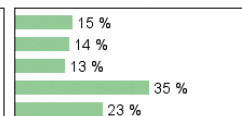
##### Pakeha



##### Māori



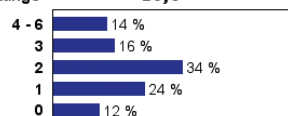
##### Pasifika



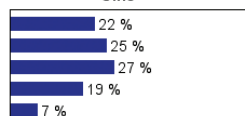
#### Year 8

##### Score Range

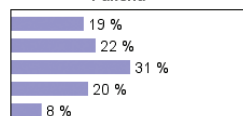
##### Boys



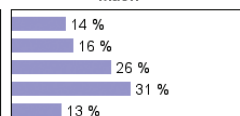
##### Girls



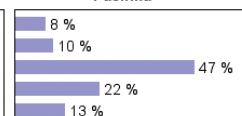
##### Pakeha



##### Māori



##### Pasifika



### Commentary:

Many students had helpful ideas about how to deal with Suzy's unhappiness but, overall, almost half of the year 4 students and one third of the year 8 students were judged to have very limited strategies. There was a small improvement at both year levels between 2002 and 2006.