

# Impact of teacher beliefs

Teachers found that when they valued the diversity of students and used it as a strength in the classroom their pedagogy became much more inclusive.

At its simplest, the research showed that 80% of the students identified their relationship with their teacher as the critical influence.

By contrast 60% of teachers identified the students' home and family background as the major influence.

Confronted with this evidence and supported with professional development the teachers recognised that to make a difference they would need to change their beliefs and practices rather than expect family circumstances to adjust. When they did the results were marked in terms of improved engagement and increased academic achievement.

## Ministry of Education

### Source:

[Ka Hikitia demonstration report: Effectiveness of Te Kotahitanga phase 5 2010-12](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/151351/BES-Ka-Hikitia-Report-FINAL-240615.pdf)  
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