

Research supported evidence for improving attainment



The two factors with the strongest evidence of improving pupil attainment are:

- teachers' content knowledge, including their ability to understand how students think about a subject and identify common misconceptions
- quality of instruction, which includes using strategies like effective questioning and the use of assessment

Specific practices which have good evidence of improving attainment include:

- challenging students to identify the reason why an activity is taking place in the lesson
- asking a large number of questions and checking the responses of all students
- spacing-out study or practice on a given topic, with gaps in between for forgetting
- making students take tests or generate answers, even before they have been taught the material

Practise that is not supported by research to improve attainment

Common practices which are not supported by evidence include:

- using praise lavishly
- allowing learners to discover key ideas by themselves
- grouping students by ability
- presenting information to students based on their "preferred learning style"



DO

DON'T DO