Diversity in New Zealand early childhood education: Challenges and opportunities

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For many years, the diversity of services within the New Zealand early childhood education (ECE) sector has been recognised. Less attention has been paid, however, to diversity within individual services.

This presentation draws upon data from a national survey of ECE services, carried out as part of a larger Diversity of diversity in ECE project, which explores practitioners’ perceptions of the challenges and successes encountered when working with children from diverse family backgrounds. We use these data to explore the attitudes and dispositions required by practitioners if they are to truly welcome, acknowledge and embrace diversity within their EC service.