Summary: Student teachers’ beliefs about teaching are arguably important to their learning and development as teachers. One aspect of these beliefs is that of a focus on the learners. In the study presented in this paper, we use two approaches to content analysis in order to learn more about student teachers’ beliefs from transcripts of focus-group discussions. The analyses reveal that the student teachers focus less on the mathematical content and more on characteristics of pupils in their discussions. These characteristics were mainly related to the pupils’ behaviour, their cultural background or their certain needs.

Classification: C29 C40 C60 D30

Keywords: student teachers’ beliefs; learner orientation; content analysis