

Emerging Minds

National Workforce Centre
for Child Mental Health

Five shifts in perspective summary

From **PASSIVE**
Viewing children as
innocent, vulnerable and
passive.



To **ACTIVE**
Children are active in shaping
their own lives, making
meaning of their experiences,
and possessing an array of
skills, know-how, creativity &
imagination, guided by values,
beliefs and hopes.

From **NAÏVE**
Viewing children as naïve
and inarticulate.



To **KNOWLEDGEABLE**
Children possess significant
knowledge, language and
understandings to define and
describe both problems and
solutions.

From **RECIPIENTS**
Viewing children as
passive recipients of
services.



To **CONTRIBUTORS**
Children are skilled and
capable collaborators in
the task of finding useful
responses to problems
and can make helpful
contributions to others facing
similar circumstances.

From **CATEGORIES**
Solely assessing a child's
congruence with mental
health or developmental
categories.



To **CONTEXT**
Children's views and
experiences exist in broader
contexts, circumstances and
relationships that surround
them, that children can
evaluate.

From **TOP-DOWN**
Relying solely on being
accountable to organisational
& funding hierarchies.



To **BOTTOM-UP**
Prioritising practice
approaches that are
accountable and answerable
to the child, their parents
and other concerned adults.