




Unpacking your image of the child

We all have an image of the child and unless we reflect on this image and challenge how useful it is, we subconsciously make decisions in the service based on our image of the child. You can use the following system to reflect on whether your image(s) of the child are supporting, or getting in the way of, best practice within your service.

My Image of the child	Role of the educator based on the image	Types of experiences based on the image	Alignment with NQF
Examples:  Naughty	Control, redirect, give rules, discipline	Simple, adult-directed, limited resources as will break them	✓ Supervision ✗ Agency ✗ Rights of child
 Cute	Spend time with child, take lots of photos, focus on the superficial	Fun resources, look good in photos, support cuteness	✗ Sense of identity ✓ Relationships ✗ Maximised learning
 Getting ready for school	Teach child, assess their knowledge and skills, focus on specific aspects	Structured, focused on school readiness skills, adult-directed	✗ Child-directed ✗ Responsive teaching ✓ Transitions