

# Schemas

## Exploring your child's play patterns

Is your child frequently emptying the cupboards? Constantly moving your things from place to place, climbing in and out of boxes?

*Read on to find out why your child might be doing these things along with ideas of how you can have more fun with your child.*

## Ever heard about 'Schemas' ?

A schema is simply when your child has a pattern of repeated behaviour or play which he or she uses to explore their ideas and thoughts. This repeated act of doing things over and over again may seem strange or even frustrating at times to an adult but through doing this your child is actually building up the connections in the brain.

There are many different types of schemas.

Some of the most common are:

- Transporting
- Enveloping and Containing
  - Trajectory
  - Connecting
  - Rotation

Exploring Schemas

## Transporting Schema (Moving things about)

Examples of possible behaviour:

- ◇ Carrying objects around from one place to another.
- ◇ Pushing a friend round in a buggy.
- ◇ Usually have full hands.

Activities/Resources you can use:

Things to transport: Animals/cars, natural stones, keys.

Containers: Pots, cups, pans, bowls, spoons

Trolleys, suitcases that they can pull along.

Buggies, pushchairs

Toys that can move around.

Water, sand, rice, with containers.

Stepping stones

Treasure baskets

Guttering and boats, balls in water, pipes.

Lorries, dumper trucks.



Exploring Schemas

## Enveloping/Containing Schema (Covering things/Containing things inside)

Examples of possible behaviour:

- ◇ Climbing into boxes.
- ◇ Sitting in tunnels.
- ◇ Filling up containers.

### Activities/Resources you can use:

Materials: Sheets, blankets, duvets, clothes pegs.

Dens, tents, caves, tunnels

Boxes and containers that fit into each other

Containers with lids, jars.

Shape sorters.

Freezing things in ice, setting things in jelly.

Cooking: Pies, fairy cakes, sandwiches.

Wrapping presents, pass the parcel.

Planting: Flowerpots, seeds.

Russian dolls, Jack in the box.



Exploring Schemas

## Connecting Schema (Joining things together)

Examples of possible behaviour:

- ◇ Spending time focussing on the joining, rather than creating an end product.
- ◇ Hand holding
- ◇ Give and take object, repetitive games

Activities/Resources you can use:

Materials: string, Sellotape, bluetac, Velcro

Making large structures such as a bridge or castle

Stickle bricks, popoids,

Duplo

Sewing, knitting or threading

Magnets

Train set

Circle games: ring a roses

Puzzles

Rope telephones

Daisy chains



Exploring Schemas

## Rotation Schema (Circles, Rotating objects or themselves)

Examples of possible behaviour:

- ◇ Enjoys spinning around, and being spun round.
- ◇ Things that turn or spin.
- ◇ Exploring curved lines.

Activities/Resources you can use:

Items to spin and twirl:

Spinning tops, coins, globes, hula hoops, Frisbees.

Roundabouts, merry go round.

Wheels and cogs.

Water/sand wheels

Ball painting.

Play dough: Circular cutters, rolling pins.

Circle games: Ring a roses.

Bikes, pedals, wheels, scooters

Balls, different sizes and textures.

Keys and locks.



Exploring Schemas

## Trajectory Schema (Horizontal, vertical and diagonal movement of things and self)

Examples of possible behaviour:

- ◇ Dropping things from their high chair.
- ◇ Kicking/throwing objects.
- ◇ Mark making (lines)

Activities/Resources you can use:

Mark making: paper, paint, chalk

Climbing frames, swings, slides, ladders.

Trampolines.

Running, jumping, obstacle courses.

Making and throwing paper airplanes.

Objects to throw/roll: Balls of different sizes, beanbags hoops,

Target games using bean bags, balls.

Stepping stones.

Shredded paper.

Long strips of paper laid down in a line to walk along.



Exploring Schemas

## Transforming Schema (Combining and changing things)

Examples of possible behaviour:

- ◇ Dropping things from their high chair.
- ◇ Kicking/throwing objects.
- ◇ Mark making (lines)

Activities/Resources you can use

Learning about cycles: Tadpoles-frogs, caterpillars-butterflies.

Corn flour in water

Jelly, Shaving foam, Ice cubes.

Paint mixing, exploring colours

Paper mache

Objects to throw/roll: Balls of different sizes, beanbags hoops,

Face painting, dressing up, masks.

Sand and water trays

Books that show people and animals changing as they grow.

Junk Modelling.

