

# Schema play

## What is a schema?

Schemas are patterns of repeated behaviour in children. Children often have a very strong drive to repeat actions such as moving things from one place to another, covering things up, putting things into containers, moving in circles or throwing things. When practitioners build on these interests, powerful learning takes place.

## Different types of schema play

**Positioning**—A child who has a positioning schema will want to place objects or themselves in certain positions.

**Connection**—A child who has a connection schema will want to connect objects together or themselves to other people or objects.

**Enclosing**—A child who has an enclosing schema will want to enclose themselves or objects.

**Enveloping**—A child who has an enveloping schema will want to cover themselves or objects.

**Orientation**—A child who has an orientation schema will want to see things from different angles.

**Rotation**—A child who has a rotation schema will want to watch objects rotate or rotate themselves.

**Trajectory**-A child who has a trajectory schema will want to direct themselves or objects in a particular way.

**Transforming**-A child who has a transforming schema will want to turn one thing into another.

**Transporting**- A child who has a transporting schema will want to carry objects from one place to another.

## How to support a schema?

Whilst at nursery we will be providing your child lots of opportunity's and resources to expand their schema play. For example, if your child is showing an enveloping schema we will provide them will lots of different materials and den play. Your child's key worker will keep you informed of the activities we are providing at nursery and you could copy these at home too.