

Transporting Schema

WHAT IS A SCHEMA?

Schemas are behaviours that children may display when they are exploring the world and trying to find out how things work.



WHAT IS A TRANSPORTING SCHEMA?

Children enjoy repeatedly moving resources around, from one place to another. They will carry many items at a time using their hands, pockets, containers, baskets or transporters.

Children displaying this schema can be viewed as being flighty not settling at any one experience long enough to participate. Being physically active outdoors will support this schematic behaviour.

Activities to Support Transporting Schema



Wheelbarrows

Wheelbarrows offer huge potential for supporting the transportation of materials and resources, especially outdoors. Children can move objects to different locations.



Train Tracks

Using train sets, cars, trucks or other vehicles, provides children with the opportunity to transport sand, cubes and people around their small world play. This understanding also supports the rotational schema, too.



Water Play

Providing children with moveable containers and resources is an effective way to encourage sustained shared thinking and incorporate mathematics.

Trajectory Schema

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WHAT IS A TRAJECTORY SCHEMA?

The trajectory schema is one of the earliest schemas observed in babies and incorporates a fascination with the horizontal, vertical and diagonal movement of things and self.

Children will throw objects or food, climb and jump. As they display this schema children may kick, not only balls but also other things not made for this purpose.

To be able to explore this schema, children need to experience space and how movement occurs within it. They may also have a **fascination for running water**.

As children develop and learn they may explore the use of lines and shapes within their drawings and mark making.

Activities to Support Trajectory Schema



Filling and Emptying

Using a filling and emptying activity with malleable materials such as rice, flour, water and pasta will support children exploring the trajectory schema as they will be able to experiment with the different containers emptying out the materials, watching them fall from a height. Sand is a great resource for exploring the trajectory schema.



Bubbles

This is the most exciting activity for children when supporting the trajectory schema. Encouraging children to blow their own bubbles and then chase them will have them playing for hours. Supporting their gross motor skills by asking them to 'pop' the bubbles. Using words like 'pop' will support their communication and language, too.



Ramps

Providing children with loose parts and construction tools to create ramps is a great way of supporting mathematics, too. This also allows the children to test their ideas and supporting critical thinking.

**Schematic
Play in the
EYFS**

Rotational Schema

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WHAT IS A ROTATIONAL SCHEMA?

Children with a rotational schema display a preference for turning taps on and off, winding and unwinding string, and playing with hoops.

They may also be fascinated with the physical experience of twirling and twisting the body, spinning around in the one spot or rolling themselves down a hill. They have an interest in things that turn such as wheels, rolling tyres around, turning lids and watching the washing machine on a spin cycle.

Activities to Support Rotational Schema



Tyres

Using tires in early childhood settings can indeed support children's exploration of the rotation schema. Tires provide opportunities for children to engage in activities such as rolling, spinning, and stacking, which promote the development of spatial awareness, balance, and coordination.



Water Wheel

Adding a water wheel to sand and water play encourages children to explore material consistency and engage in scientific inquiry while developing fine motor skills and problem-solving abilities. The rotation on the wheel will also foster the children's need to seek out the rotation schema.



Stirring and Mixing

Providing children with stirring and mixing activities in the early years supports the rotation schema by allowing them to engage in repetitive motions that involve circular movement. These activities promote the development of fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness as children manipulate objects within containers.

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Orientation Schema

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WHAT IS AN ORIENTATION SCHEMA?

Children have the urge to turn objects and themselves around and upside down to get a view from under the table or on top. They may bend over and look at the world backwards through their legs.

Children experiment by seeing things from different views, using cardboard tubes, binoculars or a magnifying glass to look through.

Children displaying an orientation schema may have difficulty in being able to sit still.

Activities to Support Orientation Schema



Magnifying Glasses

Using magnifying glasses for bug hunts supports a child's orientation schema by encouraging exploration and observation of their surroundings. It enhances spatial awareness and curiosity as children examine objects closely, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world and developing their sense of direction and orientation.



Physical Play

Encouraging outdoor play supports a child's orientation schema, particularly their vestibular system, as they engage in activities that involve movement and balance. Activities like running, jumping, and climbing stimulate the vestibular system, which helps children develop a sense of spatial orientation and body awareness.



Binoculars

Using binoculars in early childhood provision can support a child's orientation schema by encouraging them to explore their environment from different perspectives. Binoculars enable children to focus on distant objects, promoting observation skills and spatial awareness as they identify landmarks and navigate their surroundings.

Schematic
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Enveloping Schema

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WHAT IS AN ENVELOPING SCHEMA?

Children with an enveloping schema are interested in covering and hiding items and themselves. They actively fill and empty various containers with natural materials and other objects.

They will become deeply involved in exploring how they and items can be covered with material. They bury items in the sand and wrap up toys using blankets or paper. Children will spend time folding up paper and their notes into a tiny size to fit in their pocket.

Activities to Support Enveloping Schema



Playdough

Using playdough in early childhood provision can support a child's enveloping schema as they manipulate the material to encase objects or mold it around their hands or other items.



Burying Treasure

Many children love burying treasure and it is really great for those with an enveloping schema. 'Treasure' can come in many forms. Often just a stone or a shell will do the job. Children enjoy digging holes in mud, sand, or soil. They can bury their 'treasure'. You can extend the activity further by encouraging them to create maps, or search for the treasure of others.



Role-Play

Using role-play costumes in early childhood provision can indeed support a child's enveloping schema. These costumes provide opportunities for children to physically engage with materials that envelop their bodies, such as cloaks, capes, or oversized clothing. By wearing these costumes, children can explore concepts of containment, enclosure, and protection, which are central to the enveloping schema.

Enclosing Schema

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WHAT IS A ENCLOSING SCHEMA?

Children show an interest in enclosed spaces. They construct fences and barricades to enclose animals or themselves. They may build the train track and put the animals in the centre. Borders may appear around their drawings or paintings. Children who are following an enclosure schema enjoy tents, tunnels, dens and climbing into a cardboard box. The enclosing schema is often observed in combination with other schematic behaviours.

Activities to Support Enclosing Schema



Picture Frames

Using picture frames in early childhood provision for art or loose parts activities can support a child's enclosing schema by providing them with a defined boundary to work within. When children place art materials or loose parts within a picture frame, they are enclosing the space within the frame.



Blocks

Using blocks in early childhood provision can support a child's enclosing schema as they manipulate the blocks to build structures that create enclosed spaces. Whether it's building walls, towers, or houses, children engage in activities that involve containing and enclosing space within the structures they construct.



Den Building

Through den building, children engage in hands-on experiences where they construct enclosed spaces using various materials such as blankets, cushions, and sticks. This activity allows them to explore the concept of enclosure, creating a sense of security and containment within the constructed dens.