

## Play Schemas

Play schemas are repeated patterns of behaviour that children use to explore and understand the world around them. These patterns, or schemas, are driven by a child's natural urge to investigate, experiment, and make sense of their environment.

**Rotation:** How things turn and twist

A child might be fascinated with circular motions or spinning.

**Enveloping:** Covering or hiding objects (or selves)

A child may like to cover or wrap themselves and/or objects.

**Connecting:** Joining together and taking apart

A child may like to join and fasten things together and then take them apart again.

**Transporting:** Moving items (or selves) from one space to another

A child may focus on moving objects from one place to another and back again.

**Orientation:** Looking at things from a different point of view or perspective

A child may like to view the world from different heights or positions.

**Enclosure / containing:** Placing object (or selves) in specific space

A child may focus on putting things inside containers or being contained themselves.

**Transformation:** Changing substances

A child may be interested in changing states, for example mixing water with sand or looking through coloured lenses.

**Trajectory:** Planes of movement – how objects move or land

A child may enjoy exploring forces and movement for example by dropping things, kicking, or throwing.

**Positioning:** Placing or ordering items

A child might line things up in a row, stack objects on top of each other, or sort toys by colour