Schemas are repeated patterns of play. A lot of toddlers and pre-school children use schemas to learn more about the world in which they live. Check this website out for more information go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/schemas>.

The most common schemas you might observe in young children’s play.

**Boundary schema**

Children sit on the edges of things or in doorways- they always seem to be in the way! Enhance their learning and play with.....

* Fences they can use to make boundaries for the animals.
* Obstacle courses
* Cars and train tracks

**Connecting schema**

Children enjoy putting things together – like trains with magnets. The opposite is a disconnecting schema, observed when children take things apart....

**Enclosing schema**

The child likes to sit inside boxes and tents – he/she draws frames round pictures and prefers playing in the box to playing with the toy. Enhance their learning and play with....

* Tents and tunnels – let children take their toys inside to play
* Save big boxes
* Blankets make good hiding places etc...

**Enveloping schema**

Children like to cover themselves with paint or blankets (similar to children learning through an enclosing schema). Enhance their learning and play with.....

* Russian dolls and stacking cups
* Body/face paint
* Paint – the child will usually cover the whole paper in paint
* Den making resources etc....

**Orientation schema**

Children like to look at the world in different ways and from different angles – this schema is linked closely to both positioning and rotation schemas. Enhance their learning and play with....

* Building materials to make ramps
* A rocking chair
* Drawing on paper stuck underneath the table
* Mirrors so they can see themselves from different angles
* Slopes to slide down etc.....

**Positioning schema**

When children are learning through a position schema they might line up their toys, usually creating trip hazards and a cross child when another child moves them out of the line to play with them!

**Rotating schema**

The child loves to go round and round – he/she enjoys toys that go round and round as well. Enhance their learning and play with....

* Anything with wheels – buggies, scooters and bikes
* Cars, trucks and trains
* Outings to the park to play on the roundabout etc...

**Trajectory schema**

Children love throwing and lining things up – this type of play is often linked to positioning. Where the child makes a long line of cars or small world animals and gets very upset if they are moved. Enhance their learning and play with....

* Small toys that can be set up in lines
* Running water for play and exploration
* Space to hop and jump – visit the local trampoline centre and play hopscotch
* A space to play where the little ones wont knock over the child’s creations
* Lego and blocks to make lines and build towers etc...

**Transforming schema**

The child loves to mix things up and make changes – he/she loves paint mixing and cooking. Enhance their learning and play with....

* Bread making kits
* Magic potion making in the garden
* Messy play with sand, water and gloop

**Transporting schema**

Children carry things around in bags and baskets – they don’t always play with the toys: the game is to carry them and dump them, enhance their learning and play with.....

* Bags and baskets
* Small toys that can be carried around and dumped
* Buckets in the garden
* Tipper trucks in the sand etc...