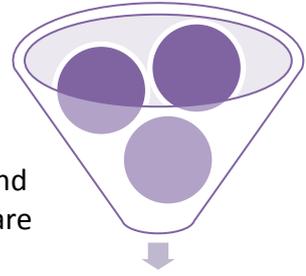




Planning using Schemas

Children acquire knowledge about the physical and social worlds they live in through playful interaction with objects and people. They do not need to be forced to learn; but instead are motivated by their own desire to make sense of their world.

Young children will often exhibit repeated patterns of behaviour or play which they will use to help explore and process the world. We call these patterns schemas. By repeating these actions/schemas again and again, children begin to make connection in the brain which strengthen over time.



There are many different types of schemas. Some of the most common are transporting, enveloping and containing, trajectory, connecting, and rotation.

Keying in to a child's pattern of behaviour can be a useful tool in planning learning experiences which will engage their curiosity. Using a child's schema as a vehicle to introduce new information enables that information to connect with strong pathways in the brain.

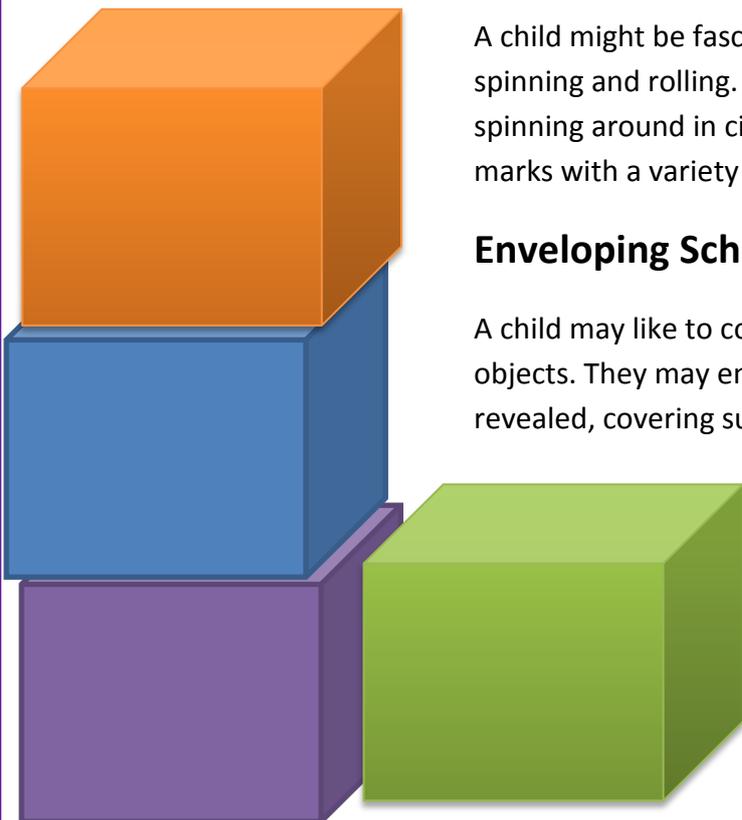


Rotation schema

A child might be fascinated with circular motions such as spinning and rolling. They may enjoy things with wheels, spinning around in circles themselves, or making circular marks with a variety of materials.

Enveloping Schema

A child may like to cover or wrap themselves and/or objects. They may enjoy things being hidden, and then revealed, covering surfaces with seemingly unconnected items, painting a picture which resembles something and then continuing to add layers until the original artwork is unable to be seen.



Connecting Schema

This is when a child likes to join and fasten things together and then disconnect things by taking them all apart again. They may also enjoy kicking a ball or connecting with people by holding hands.

Transporting Schema

A child may repeatedly move objects from one place to another and back again. As this schema develops they may enjoy things that they can carry lots at a time such as bags, trucks prams etc.



Orientation Schema

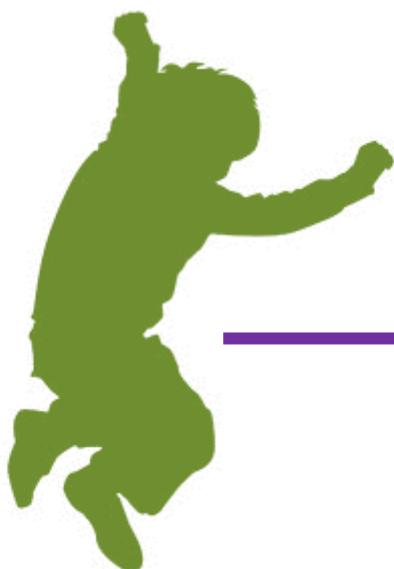
A child may like to view the world from different heights or positions. They may climb up high, spend time laying on the floor viewing the world from a sideways view. They may look through their legs or hang upside down from a climbing frame.

Enclosure/ containing schema

A child may focus on putting things inside other things, and will often explore the capacity of various receptacles such as boxes, bags, bottles, small den spaces etc. They might build walls around toys with bricks or other barriers, and will often enjoy smaller crawl spaces such as tunnels.

Transformation Schema

A child may be interested in changing states, for example, mixing water with sand, cooking, mixing colours. They may also be interested the changing state of caterpillars into butterflies, coloured lenses in glasses, and watching themselves try on different hats in the mirror.



Trajectory Schema

A child may enjoy exploring forces and movement like dropping things, running, throwing objects and climbing up things and jumping off things. They might enjoy things that fly such as aeroplanes and rockets, and things that go fast.

Versatile Schema related resources

'open ended resources', Balls, boxes and containers in various sizes, den spaces, blankets, Parachute, bricks, sand, playdough.