



What is a Schema? Why is it important?



Schemas are repeated patterns of behavior that children will go through in order to explore their environment. The answer to “Why do they always have to do that?” is “Because, that’s how they learn”.

The 9 schemas associated with children are:
Trajectory, Transporting, Enveloping, Orientation, Positioning,
Rotational, Transformation, Connecting and Containment.

Orientation

Looking at the world through a different view point



Hang upside down
Looking through their legs
Looking at things upside down or sideways
Climb to see from a higher position
Looks through tubes or narrow openings



Ways to encourage exploration:

- Safe equipment to climb and hang from
- Binoculars, kaleidoscopes or magnifying glasses
- Mirrors on the floor, ceiling or walls
- Convex or concave mirrors
- Supported play for spinning and rolling



Language to use: climb, under, over, off, upside down, through