

## 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.

## Rotational

Movement of self and object in a circular motion



**Fascination with things that spin**  
**Books with vehicles**  
**Turning on and off taps**  
**Watching washing machine**  
**Mixing, stirring and rolling dough**  
**Spinning twirling own body**



### Ways to encourage exploration:

- Cars, trucks, trains
- Ride-on toys
- Books with vehicles
- Cooking/baking together
- Child safe tools (screwdrivers, drills)
- Water/sand wheels
- Cogs and gears
- Safe space to twirl and spin (try adding ribbons or scarves)



Language to use: **spin, twirl, twist, turn, slow, fast**