

Play Patterns (Schemas) Chart

These ideas can help you to think about using everyday activities to involve your child exploring *their* preferred play patterns – which will probably change over time!

	Connecting (Likes to join things & maybe take them apart)	Enveloping & enclosing (Covers things & puts objects or themselves inside things)	Rotation (Interested in circles and things that go round and round)	Trajectory (Fascinated by how things move – including themselves)	Transporting (Enjoys moving things from one place to another)
Playing at home	Threading Sellotape and string	Hiding things under cushions Boxes – camps/ play houses/tents Hide and seek Big box games	Balls Repetitive stories and rhymes	Paper aeroplanes Throwing games (bean bags or screwed up, not hard objects) Bouncing	'Moving house' Playing 'postman' Sending and receiving messages
Toys	Duplo/Lego Jigsaws/puzzles Train track Dominoes Matching games Building blocks	Dressing up cloak Sleeping bag Box houses Shoe box for little collections	Kaleidoscope Mobiles Spirograph Sand wheels Water wheels	Cars Toy parachute Marble run Football Skittles	Toy buggy/pram truck Baskets Marble run Wheeled toys on string
Garden/ park	Obstacle courses Circle games	Nests of grass Leaves Soil Dens Planting	Running around in circles Roundabout Running around tree trunks	Running and jumping Swings Football Bubbles Watering plants	Buggies Trailers Back packs Wheelbarrows Pram
Outings	Building sites Trains The fair	Farm or zoo to see animal homes Holes for foxes, rabbits, badgers etc.	'I spy' round objects: wheels, signs etc. The fair Round windows Cogs & pulleys	Musicians: drummers Flag poles Fireworks Airport The fair	Trains Buses Boats Cars Planes
Shop- ping	Shop conveyor belt Holding hands Holding bags Queuing	Shopping bag or basket	Sorting round shapes / other shapes Trolley wheels Check-out till	Pushing the trolley	Shopping trolley Shopping bags Baskets Post-office for parcels/letters
Cooking and food	Sandwiches Straws	Sandwiches, wraps Pies, pasties, samosas Icing cakes	Washing up plates & bowls Stirring Whisking Rolling pastry	Popcorn Spaghetti Dough or cakes rising	To/from fridge Laying table Going on a picnic
Washing	Pipes and plumbing Hoses Funnels Pouring	Wrapped in a towel Hiding Washing in bubbly water Bubble bath games	Watching washing machine/drier Circular movement of water down the drain	Squeezy bottles Water from a tap Water down the drain Pouring from a height	Pots, jugs and mugs for carrying water Laundry baskets
Bedtime	Books Baby alarm Light switch	Stories and games under bedclothes Hugs & cuddles	'Round and round the garden'	Jumping into bed	Bedroom to bathroom & back Taking favourite toy to bed