



★ Early Years Home Learning ★

Schematic Play Transporting

This is best:



Indoors or Outdoors

Concrete materials

You may need:

- Containers - boxes, bags, jars etc.
- Natural resources
- Everyday items



The basic idea: Give your child a choice of different bags, containers, jars, boxes, purses or a trolley for collecting and transporting items. Use items you have around the house. You could start with a small bag for collecting items found whilst in the garden or on a walk. Support your child to enjoy the process of transporting different things in different ways.

How this benefits your child:

- Schematic play happens when children are involved in repeated actions or certain behaviours as they explore the world around them. We call these specific behaviours 'Schemas'. They can vary from child to child and some children may never display schematic behaviours. This helps their brain development and learning as they grow and develop.
- By providing this opportunity to allow your child to explore their schematic play your child will be constructing meaning in what they are doing.
- As children engage in their schematic play, they are problem solving, questioning, predicting, imagining, speculating, and developing their ability to make independent choices. This is the start of developing High Order Thinking skills which will allow your child to build confidence to become a creative thinker and good problem solver.

Tips to support your child:

- A simple idea is every time you are outside have a bag or container with you for opportunities for collecting. For example: shells at the beach, twigs in the forest, leaves, daisies, stones, or pebbles.
- Positive comments like - "Wow, that's a great collection, your jar is so full it's overflowing" will let your child know you are interested in what they are doing. Also try to use open questions like - "What can you tell me about your collection?", "What do you think we could do with these?" A nice idea with items that are not perishable is to have a collection box or add them to some loose parts play. For example, your child could use the items in a play kitchen or with play dough. Ask your child what ideas they have for using these items.

Make this simpler...

Encourage your child to collect items and encourage them to bring you each item one at a time. Ask "can you bring me something red?" for example.

Make this more challenging...

Introduce a transporting race, can you transport all the items from point A to point B, carrying one at a time? How quickly can you do it? Can you get faster?

"The fun is in the journey,
not the end result!"



Top tip from our Speech and Language Therapy partners:

Being face to face with your child helps them to develop their communication skills. Build on your child's vocabulary by commenting/naming objects they have collected. Encourage understanding of prepositions by modelling in, on, under.

