

Glenburn Pre 5 Centre

Schematic Play



A leaflet for
Parents and Carers

What is Schematic Play?

Schemas are patterns of play which children may repeat time and time again whilst they are exploring the world around them.

Children may use these same patterns of repeatable behaviour with whichever toys or resources they enjoy using.

Within our setting we aim to 'spot' the schemas which children may display within their play. You will see this evidence recorded in your child's learning journeys.

By us understanding and recognising children's schematic behaviour in their play, this allows us to plan to support this further.

Children learn best if they are interested in 'what' they are playing with; 'how' they play needs to make sense to them.

Not all children are observed to be in a particular schema, some children display more than one schema at a time. There may be times when a child's schema is noticeable and other times when it is not.

Examples of some Schemas

TRAJECTORY

Children may throw or drop objects; they might run back and forth, may enjoy jumping up and down or may push chairs or objects around.

(At home you could provide your child with scrunched up newspaper, balloons, soft balls or objects to push around)

TRANSPORTING

Children like to carry a bag with objects inside the bag. They may enjoy pushing a pram with objects in it from one place to another. They may fill containers in the garden with sand or soil and move them from place to place.

(At home you could provide your child with empty bags, purses and boxes, buckets with handles, wheelbarrows and plastic bottles)

ROTATION

Your child may be fascinated with objects that turn round and round, twist and spin or even enjoy moving their own bodies displaying these movements. You may find your child enjoys turning taps on and off, spends time repeatedly turning knobs on anything, and likes to spin anything such as wheels on a bike and toys which rotate.

(At home you could provide your child with spinning top toys, balls, wheeled toys, access to knobs they are able to turn, roll down hills)

ENVELOPING

Some children enjoy putting layers of dressing up clothes on or wrapping themselves up in fabric and hats. You may see your child making dens, hide inside large cardboard boxes, crawl through tunnels again and again, and fill bags, boxes and envelopes with anything.

(At home you could provide your child with floaty neck scarves, hats, empty boxes and bags, spaces to make dens, large and small envelopes)

CONNECTION

You may find your child connects toys and objects together. They may enjoy connecting a train track together and join up the trains. You may see them connecting cars or animals together ensuring one touches the other.

(At home you could provide your child with duplo to connect together, junk modelling to connect together with masking tape, boxes to connect and play imaginatively with, they make their own trains and cars)

Schema Spotting at Home

We would appreciate you sharing with us how your child likes to play at home and what they enjoy playing with. Do you recognise any of the Schema's described in this leaflet when you watch your child play?

Which Schema does your child repeat time and time again?

**TRAJECTORY, TRANSPORTING, ROTATION,
ENVELOPING, CONNECTION**

We would welcome hearing you share how you have supported your child at home to follow their current Schema or Schema's.

Sharing information from home will provide staff with information to plan experiences within the nursery. We will also be able to see if your child is following the same Schema's at home and nursery.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your child's Keyworker or any member of staff in your child's room.