

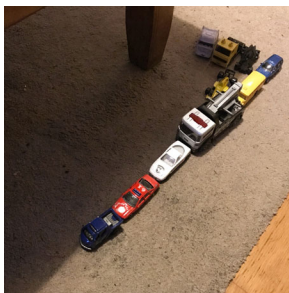
## What is a Schema? Why is it important?

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.

## Positioning

Aligning toys and objects, putting things side by side



**Lining up toys and other objects**  
**Sorting by size or colour**  
**Stacking blocks**  
**Threading beads**  
**The need to sit in a certain place**  
**Food in a certain order at meals**



### Ways to encourage exploration:

- Wooden blocks to stack and align
- Colourful objects to sort
- Large colourful beads or coloured pasta to thread
- Nesting dolls
- Self-correcting puzzles
- Loose parts in various sizes to put in order
- Safe space and time to order and sort



Language to use: sort, order, next, small, large, stack, build