

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.

Transformation

The changes of form, appearance, nature or character



Mixes all the paint colours
Pours drink into meal
Dress up
Wears non traditional things
Cooking, baking
Constructing and deconstructing



Ways to encourage exploration:

- Different mediums to mix (sand, water, paint, cornstarch)
- Costumes, old clothing and child safe makeup
- Safe material to construct and deconstruct with
- Opportunities to cook and bake
- Bubbles, play dough, goopy substances
- Finger paints (try adding coffee grounds or sugar)



Language to use: wet, dry, empty, full, mix, stir, blend, different