

Help Sheet

0 – 25 Specialist Teaching And Support Service

How to support a positioning schema.

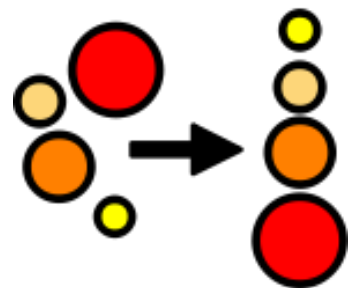


Why?

- The word schema was first introduced by Jean Piaget in 1952. In simple terms, schemas are 'patterns of play' that help children to develop their knowledge and understanding about how things work.
- Schemas are part of child development. For children with SEND schemas are likely to be in line with their developmental stage and may last for a longer period of time.
- Some schemas will fulfil a child's sensory needs as well as being exploratory learning.
- Children find schemas motivating so they can be a useful way to plan 'next steps' for a child with SEND.
- Positioning is a schema where children enjoy exploring changing the position of either themselves or objects. Children may do this by lining objects up, stacking objects, grouping and sorting objects into collections and making patterns. When a child is exploring a positioning schema they are learning about a range of mathematical and scientific concepts such as pattern, grouping, classifying and problem solving.

Learning gained from the positioning schema can be:

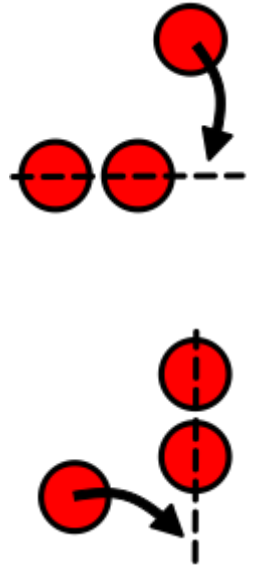
- Visual discrimination
- Similarities and differences
- Sorting
- Observation
- Patterns
- Fine motor control
- Spatial awareness
- Control and coordination



Related Vocabulary: Next to, on top, underneath, pattern, repeat, long, short, tall, small, colour names.

How?

- Play behaviours associated with the positioning schema may be:
- Lining up toys they are playing with.
- Sorting the books on the bookshelf into size order.
- Painting and drawing carefully ordered lines, such as rainbows or patterns.
- Sticking coloured craft materials in groups or in patterns.
- Sorting and arranging loose part materials into egg box compartments.
- Tidying up and sorting resources back into their correct places.
- Rearranging toys or furniture into their rightful place.
- Stacking objects, such as stacking cups.
- Noticing patterns in their environment.
- Sorting items by colour into coloured cups/dishes.



Things to note:

This resource sheet is part of the Schemas - Positioning Tool Kit.

- [Help Sheet – How to support a positioning schema.](#)
- Resource – Resource to support a positioning schema.

Reference / Evidence base – informed by:

Jean Piaget, Psychologist – Piaget's Theory 1952

Chris Athey, Lecturer in Education – The Froebel Early Education Project 1973-78

Tina Brue, Honorary Professor in Early Childhood Education – The Froebel Block Play Project 1987

Understanding Schemas in Young Children Again! Again! – Sally Featherstone