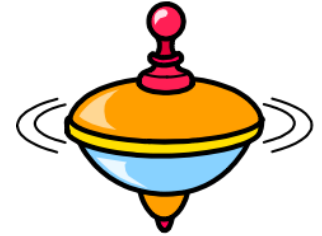


Help Sheet

0 – 25 Specialist Teaching And Support Service

How to support a rotation 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.
- Rotation is a schema where children turn, spin and rotate either themselves or objects which are usually circular. When a child is exploring a rotation schema, they are learning about how things move and are learning a range of scientific and mathematical skills such as observation, testing ideas, predicting and making conclusions.

Learning gained from the rotation schema can be:

- Cause and effect
- Visual tracking
- Gross motor and fine motor skills - co-ordination and control
- Force and motion
- Sensory feedback
- Spatial awareness
- Positional language



Related Vocabulary: Fly, spin, twist, turn, twirl, round, circle, curved, faster, dizzy.

Help Sheet

0 – 25 Specialist Teaching And Support Service

How?

Play behaviours associated with the rotation schema may be:

- Running in circles.
- Turning the door handles round.
- Spinning themselves round.
- Spinning toys.
- Turning taps on and off watching the water go down the plughole.
- Winding and unwinding string.
- Drawing and painting circle and spiral patterns.
- Rolling hoops or tyres.
- Twirling ribbons or scarves.
- Twisting up in the swing so they spin round.



Things to note:

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

- [Help Sheet – How to support a rotation schema.](#)
- Resource – Resource to support a rotation 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 Bruce, Honorary Professor in Early Childhood Education – The Froebel Block Play Project 1987

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