Schemas in Areas of Play

Schemas are a way of talking and thinking about patterns in children's thinking and play that help us understand their passions better. We at Wilson Playcentre (Wellington Association) talk about schemas to help us deliver Te Whauariki more easily; schemas can be difficult to see; a child can demonstrate one, or several, or no schemas at a particular time. But we find schemas help us to interact with our children, to have engaging and meaningful conversations about the ideas they might be exploring, and to support their exploration of their ideas by supplying a variety of activities that might be relevant, and by feeding in appropriate language and questions to support their thinking. I think schemas are extremely useful because children's passions are what drive them to become more deeply engaged and deep engagement is what we need in order to support and scaffold children's learning more effectively.


If a child is passionately interested in items in this column:

| If a child is passionately interested in items in this column: | They may well be exploring this schema: | And here are some problems you may have:
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Flicking or throwing paint, | | Cumbersome objects. Painting may not be suitable. Might be using too much paint, causing spills.
Cutting playdough and | | Reversing of pattern. Painting may not be appropriate. Children may not have full hands.
Gluing, sticking, | | Most children have no difficulty in gluing and sticking.
Moving playdough from | | A child is trying to move something not suitable.
To pieces. | | A child is trying to move something too big.
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Transporting | | Moving things to inappropriate areas, need places to take stuff (e.g. sand, water, paint, finger-paint, tools) to. Picking up yucky things in order to move them.
Joining things together. | | Connecting to inappropriate activities. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Carpentry Junk | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Collage | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Storytelling Dramatic | | Joining to inappropriate materials.加入 may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Cooking | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Carpentry Junk | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Collage | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Pretending to be or be | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
the roles of animals | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Rotation and Circular | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Dressing up, taking on | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
the roles of animals | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Collage | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Paint | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Painting | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Painting | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Combining | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Joining | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Joining | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Making | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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Ratios and Proportions | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
Counting | | Joining to inappropriate materials. Joining may not be the best activity. A child is trying to join inappropriate materials.
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