# Schema Seekers

## Overview

To help staff understand key schemas those repeated patterns of behaviour children use to learn and to explore how natural spaces can support them through movement, curiosity, and open-ended play.



## Activities

Warm Up – Gather outdoors and introduce a few core schemas through playful prompts:
Trajectory – move in straight lines,
Ro-tation – spinning, rolling, turning. Enclosing - hide.

Activity – A person calls out a schema and staff explore to find natural features in your setting to support it.
Trajectory – where can your body travel? Staff run, jump, throw leaves.
Rotation – find something that rolls and test on different surfaces.

## Equipment

- Schema words on wood cookies
- A variety of natural materials.

## Key Observations

Encourage staff to observe the children to recognise schemas in children's play outdoors.
Understand how the natural environment can support children's behaviour.

## Learning Outcomes

How schemas can help you interpret children's behaviour outdoors.
What schemas do you see most often in your EY outdoor setting and what prompts can you use to support them?

## Progression in Learning

- Schema challenge – each staff member chooses a schema and designs a simple, child-friendly invitation.
- A stick-rolling slope, rotation, a leaf-collecting route for transporting, a log-jumping line for trajectory.