

C U R I O U S P A R E N T S

# Schematic Play

The Curiosity  
Approach™

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Have you noticed that your child has starting to drop items from their high chairs, throwing their toys around the room or becomes completely engrossed in pouring water? This is a pattern of play that most children will go through as they develop and learn all about the world around them.

A repeated pattern of play is called a schema, and here we will look at the trajectory schema, a pattern of play that at times leads to children been asked to stop throwing as they are yet to learn about the possible consequences from their actions such as knocking an ornament from a shelf, caused by throwing an object.

Your child is curious and they're showing an interest in the movement of the object by using the action of throwing, they're seeing how far it can travel, the speed it flies through the air and the sound it creates as it lands on the floor. These are scientific discoveries that your child is learning about.

My little boy is currently going through this pattern of play, there has been a few times where he has nearly broken something, like the TV screen.

At home, we've been thinking of ways to support his developing interest in the trajectory schema, and encouraging him to further his discoveries.

At home we have introduced a 'throwing' basket, It's a basket full of objects he can throw, that are soft, light in weight and won't cause as much damage in comparison to some of his other toys.

We have a basket in each room so when he feels the need to throw something, he can use an item from the basket.

This idea has taken a week or so of modelling and showing him what the basket is for, playing with the items together, practising throwing games and supporting this schema, it hasn't taken long for him to access the items independently, and he is now choosing the items from the basket instead of wanting to throw a car or train through the air.

By providing this, he is aware that we noticed his interest and respect his need to explore the notion in a safer way. There are times a toy may fly through the air but providing him with safer alternatives have certainly helped support his interest and impulse to throw.

### Items you could use to create a basket yourself...

- ★ Soft cuddly toys
- ★ Dance scarf
- ★ Ribbons
- ★ Pom poms
- ★ Soft balls



## Bath times

Bath times are a great way to help support the trajectory schema too, provide your child with empty clean bottles and containers to encourage them to pour from one container to another or pour water from a height and observe the flow of the water and the sound the splashes create.

Be prepared to get wet yourself as the water will more than likely fly threw the air too, so plenty of towels on the floor.

Have fun, be involved in your child's new fascination, what wonderful scientific discoveries they're making all through play.



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Did you know that we are committed to the United Nations 17 Global Goals? We focus on Global Goal 4 – A Quality Education For All. We donate directly to Sparkle Malawi and sponsor numerous children to attend school!