

# Wanderlust Baby and Toddler Nature Study: Spring



Creating irresistible opportunities for learning  
through play in nature



# SCHEMAS

Schemas are described as patterns of repeated behaviour which allow children to explore and express developing ideas and thoughts through. Children often have a very strong drive to repeat actions such as moving things from one place to another, covering things up and putting things into containers, or moving in circles or throwing things. These patterns can often be observed running through their play and will vary between one child and another. If we as educators can tune into these patterns we are able to offer opportunities for powerful learning to happen.

Below I will share the different types of schemas and how these may be supported in the Spring time.

## Orientation

Seeing things from a different perspective

- Laying on your back and looking up at the sky
- Rolling a ball between your legs
- Obstacle course
- Climbing on a cargo net
- Climbing above someone and looking down
- Adult lays on their back and baby/ toddler lifted up into the air facing them

## Enclosure/ Container

Placing things inside larger things

- Tractor or trike with wagon. or trailer to fill
- Putting yourself in a hammock
- Buckets of different sizes to fill with natural treasures
- Putting insects inside an insect viewer
- Getting inside a big bucket
- Den building
- Filling trucks up with rocks

## Position

Organising things into a specific order

- Pegging feathers on a line of string
- Sorting rocks you find
- Lining up dried flower heads
- Ordering sticks from smallest to biggest

## Transformation

Exploring properties of different things in nature

- Adding water to soil and having space to make mud pies
- Mixing seeds in with your mud
- Colour mixing in puddles or on a mirror tray



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## Trajectory

Exploring how things move

- Throwing rocks into the stream or pool sticks!
- Jumping in puddles
- Throwing mud balls
- Interrupting running water
- Throwing blades of grass or a feather into the air
- Pouring water down gutters
- Dropping duck food

## Enveloping

Interested in covering and hiding items, including themselves

- Burying toes in wet grass, mud or sand
- Wrapping teddy in a picnic blanket
- Wrapping a rock in a big leaf
- Wrapping each other up in a playsilk
- Wrapping a tree in wool

## Connecting

Wanting to join items together

- Making daisy chains
- Stacking flat pebbles
- Connecting trees together with a ball of string
- Toy zip lines between trees
- Building a bridge to get across a stream
- Building a structure to rescue a teddy stuck in the tree

