Real Talk Recap!

Mic drop moments collected from live webinar chat, and evaluation feedback.

- "I finally have terms for what the students are doing when they are playing."
- "This helped me rethink my reaction when a child builds a 'weapon,' maybe it's not aggression but curiosity about power or sound."
- "I feel like I can better honor the child's thinking and guide growth."
- "I will use Play Schema to make the child comfortable and as a reference for ways to offer new materials or activities."
- "Sometimes you don't need to extend. Just embrace."
- "This was a fresh way to look at behaviors we often mislabel."

Resources

Play Schemas Quick Reference & Reflection Guide	Play Patterns: Family Letter Template	CDC Milestone Tracker App

Webinar Summary

Learning Objectives Recap

- Define play schemas, identify common schema categories, and recognize their role in how young children explore and make sense of the world.
- Respond intentionally to children's schema-driven play by selecting and adapting materials, environments, and interactions to scaffold each child's learning journey.
- Honor and nurture the deep learning happening through children's play by planning with a "Notice, Name, and Extend" approach, framing guidance through a schema lens, and communicating the value of schema play to families and colleagues..

Mindfulness Moment

We began with a collective box breathing exercise, modeling self-regulation strategies educators can use with children. This grounding moment set the tone for deep, reflective learning.

Anchoring in Purpose

Becker's Education Team reinforced our guiding purpose:
"To meet each child with curiosity, not control, and to use what we observe in their play as insight, not interference."
Attendees were reminded that play is how children think, feel, communicate, and grow.

Webinar Summary, cont'd

Key Themes & Takeaways

1. Schemas Are Signals, Not Symptoms

Educators explored patterns like positioning, rotation, transporting, connecting, and enveloping, learning to see them as rich developmental processes.

"Schemas don't need to be stopped—they can be honored and extended."

— Cynthia Thompson, attendee

Observing schemas provides a lens into regulation, sensory needs, and cognition.

Chat box insights revealed how often educators encounter these behaviors:

"My kids stack cars in a line daily—now I see the learning in that."

2. The "Notice – Name – Extend" Framework

This simple yet powerful approach resonated deeply.

Attendees shared:

"It helps us honor the child's thinking and guide growth."

"Sometimes you don't need to extend. Just embrace."

- **Notice** the child's repeated behavior.
- **Name** the pattern to make it visible (e.g., "You're rotating!").
- **Extend** with props, questions, or environment shifts—if needed.

3. Observation as Professional Practice

From the evaluation responses and chat, a universal takeaway was that observation is not passive. It is our most effective tool for:

- Building trust with children and families.
- Distinguishing between developmental behavior and possible red flags.
- Guiding inclusive and responsive teaching.

Reflective Questions to Take Forward

- What patterns do I tend to redirect instead of explore?
- How can I pause and see the learning happening in a child's repeated action?
- Am I asking: "What is this child working on?" before stepping in?
- What can I share with families to build trust around play and development?

Products Referenced

- [Magnatiles](#)
- [Whirly Squigs](#)
- [Spin Again](#)
- [Oasis Retreat](#)
- [Joey Jumps](#)
- [Sensory Mood Discovery Table](#)
- [Small World Vehicles](#)
- [Ramp STEM Starter Set](#)
- [Carry & Go Ocean Drive Toddler Water Table](#)
- [Sprouts Shopping Baskets](#)
- [Sensory Mood Discovery Table](#)
- [Young Brix Bristle Blocks](#)
- [Becker's Infant Triangle Activity Mirror](#)

Dear Educators, We see you! We appreciate you! You're amazing!