



Signs and Labels in the Community

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While you're driving from place to place in your neighborhood, I'm sure your little chatterbox keeps the conversation flowing. "Daddy, whenever you see the red sign shaped like an octagon you need to stop". "Can we go to Target so I can buy a new toy?" "Mom that sign on the cereal says free, can we have some?" Where is all of this language coming from?



It may seem like your child has just exploded with awareness of print in their environment. The truth is, they have been watching and noting patterns all along. As print awareness increases, your toddler is connecting this environmental print to his own needs and desires.

Teaching your child to read environmental print is a steppingstone to independent reading. Restaurant logos, billboards, and signs feature products that your child recognizes. Most of these signs are paired with pictures that your child relies on to

construct meaning. Beginning readers are ready to tackle simple sentences composed of sight words and common signs and symbols.

Try an easy hands-on activity to practice reading signs. Cut out pictures of signs you know your child can recognize. Create an anchor chart with a repeated sentence frame:

I can see _____. (Wal Mart)

I can see _____. (The Zoo)

I can see _____. (The Public Library)

Dictate daily activities to model your awareness and constant use of print in your environment:

Let's find the sign that says "produce" because we need some corn for dinner. Okay now do you see a sign for the bakery? I'd like to try some blueberry muffins this week.

There are some signs that you want to teach your child early on because they will need them in their daily interactions. These commonly used signs can aid your child in staying safe and knowing where to go.

Some signs that you may want to teach your child are:

Boys and Girls (for bathroom use)

Hot and Cold

Street signs in your neighborhood

Caution

Beware

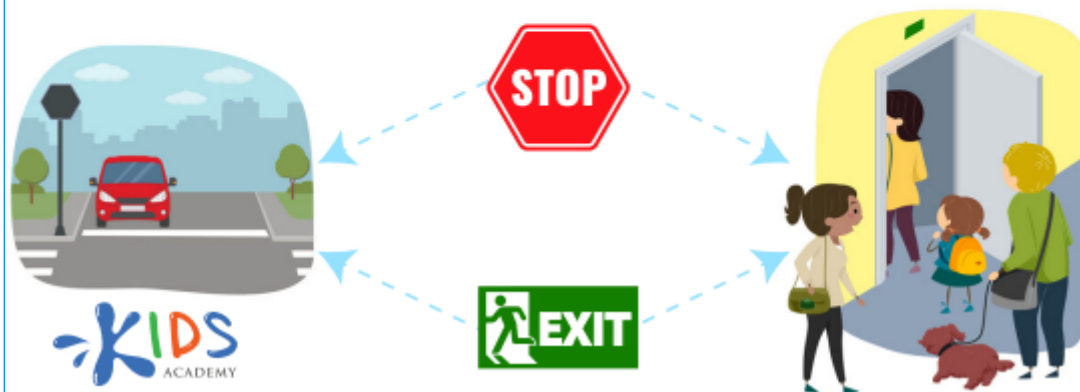
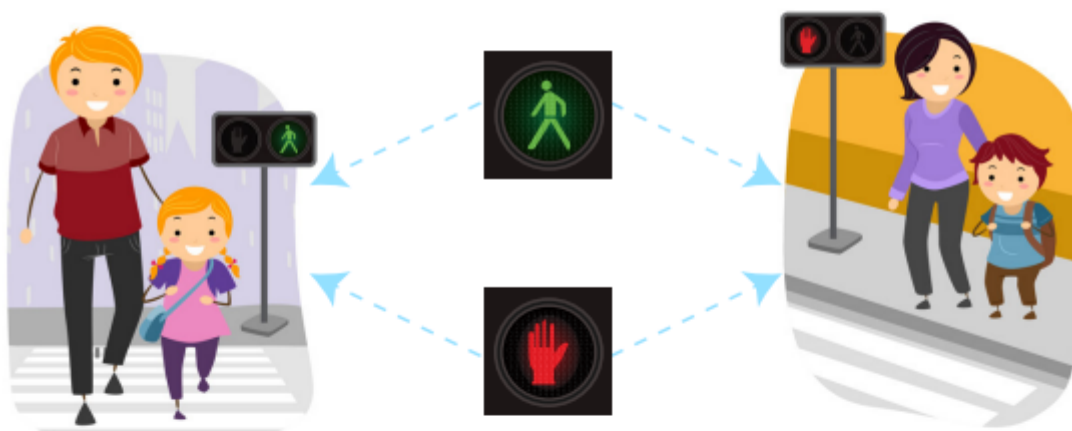
Stop and Go

Head to Kids Academy to practice recognizing common signs in the community.

RECOGNIZE COMMON SIGNS IN THE COMMUNITY

PART I

What do these signs mean?
Draw a line from the sign to the picture.



RECOGNIZE COMMON SIGNS IN THE COMMUNITY

PART 2

What do these signs mean?
Draw a line from the sign to the picture.





Is your toddler headed to school soon? If so, your child will need a basic knowledge of reading signs. They should attend to signs that show where supplies belong and how to organize their personal belongings. Many classrooms use signs to label centers and parts of the classroom. You can mirror these signs at home to reinforce this structure for your child.

Key Takeaways

1. Model using signs as a reference in your daily routines.

2. Teach safety signs for your child to access when you are not around.
3. Consider labeling items at home to help your child organize their belongings.

