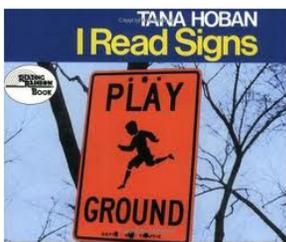


Sign smarts

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Draw your child's attention to the different kinds of traffic signs in your surroundings, e.g. stop signs, crosswalk signs, railroad signs, highway entrance signs, arrows, etc.
- ❖ Talk with your child about the meaning of each sign and how people use signs to help them travel safely and find their way.
- ❖ Notice how some signs have shapes and symbols and some signs have letters on them. Point out how the shapes and symbols on some traffic signs give us messages without using words.
- ❖ When you are driving together, encourage your child to help you travel safely by pointing out the signs.
- ❖ Look for signs with symbols that you may not have seen before, e.g. for a divided highway, a curve, an animal crossing, trucks entering, etc.
- ❖ Point out electronic traffic signals, e.g. green, yellow and red traffic lights, flashing caution lights, push-button crosswalk signals, etc. Help your child learn the meanings for each colour and symbol, and use the signs to practice traffic safety when crossing the street.

A good read-together book



I Read Signs by Tana Hoban

This activity helps children learn that shapes, symbols and print have meaning, and encourages them to use signs to help them travel safely.



Hints for success

- ❖ Encourage your child to look for familiar signs when you go to new places.
- ❖ Let your child take the lead in trying to guess the meaning of unfamiliar signs and symbols.

Let's count how many stop signs there are between here and the library.

Here's a sign with an animal on it. What do you think it means?

Ways to say it

More ideas for Sign smarts

Try this way

- ❖ Look for signs that help people find their way in the city and in the country. If you live in the city, take a neighbourhood walk and point out the names of streets near your home. If you live in the country, help your child learn the road numbers or other points to remember.
- ❖ Help your child look for signs that identify public buildings, e.g., the library, the hospital, the police station, etc.
- ❖ Help your child learn the name of your road or street and memorize your home address. Talk about how numbers are used to help people find houses, apartments or businesses.

Imagination and symbolic play

Help your child make some traffic signs to use when playing with cars, trucks or other small toys. Make the shapes of traffic signs on cardboard, colour them with crayons or markers, cut them out and glue them to sticks. Put the stick in a piece of playdough or modeling clay to make the sign stand up.

Book link

City Signs by Zoran Milich



Safety tip

Children love to push buttons on crosswalk traffic signals. Teach your child to look both ways before crossing, even after the signal says you can walk.