

Signs, Symbols & Public Information

Interpret common categories of public signs while understanding that official signs must be followed in real contexts.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Interpret common categories of public signs while understanding that official signs must be followed in real contexts.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Symbols communicate quickly when people share their meaning.

2 Colour and shape can support meaning but should not be the only cue in accessible design.

3 Real safety/traffic signs should be learned from official local guidance, not invented workbook rules.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Match fictional information, warning and direction signs to their purposes.

Redesign a colour-only classroom symbol so it also uses shape/text.

Explain why a symbol key matters on a map or building plan.

Choose which sign needs the clearest action wording.

Distinguish an invented classroom icon from an official road/safety sign.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Observe public signs with an adult and use official explanations when the sign controls real safety behaviour.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create three fictional library signs: information, direction and reminder, each using icon plus words.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Why should important meaning not depend only on colour?

2. Are workbook-made icons substitutes for official safety signs?

3. What makes a public sign effective?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Signs, Symbols & Public Information”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

Accessibility: some users cannot distinguish colours reliably.

2. Suggested response

No.

3. Suggested response

Clear, visible, concise and understood by its intended audience.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

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