

CONVERSATION STARTERS



Signs, Signs are Everywhere!



Signs and symbols are all around us. They are a means of communicating information and an important element in early literacy development.

This early literacy experience will support children to develop an awareness of visual languages, and how imagery and words convey a message, for example, the image of persons walking on a sign means to cross the road here.

What signs and symbols can you find and what do they tell us?

WHAT YOU NEED

You only need yourselves and your powers of observation.

ROUTINES AND TIMES OF THE DAY THAT WILL SUPPORT LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

- When out walking or driving look for traffic signs.
- Supermarkets are ideal places for children to recognise signs and symbols. Children could help by choosing items from the shelf that are on your shopping list.
- Take advantage of opportunities to talk about signs when you see them.



WHAT LEARNING IS HAPPENING

This is a fun and engaging way to support children's early literacy skills.

- Drawing children's attention to signs in the environment helps them learn to read letters and words and interpret images.
- Children begin to recognise symbols that are important and that they convey a message.

TIPS TO REMEMBER WHEN TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD

When asking children questions, give them time to contemplate, process and then reply. By asking open-ended questions children can reply with more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer, which allows the conversation to continue.



WORDS OR PHRASES TO USE:

- For younger children, pointing out signs and identifying the meaning is important. Look, here is the bus stop.
- This sign tells us we're at our street. It says (name) street.
- With older children, you may point out signs and ask children what it might tell us. I can see a sign with a red circle and cross, I wonder what that could mean?
- At the supermarket. Can you see which is the cereal we usually buy?

