

Kindergarten

Health Objective 2.03

Recognize and describe the meanings of traffic signs and signals.

Language Arts Objective 2.06

Understand and follow oral-graphic directions.

Materials Needed:

I Read Signs by Tana Hoban

I Read Symbols by Tana Hoban

Road Signs: A Hare-Y Race With a Tortoise by Margery Cuyler

Appendix 1a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l - Pictures of Signals and Signs (optional – copy for transparencies)

Focus:

Give the students an opportunity to experience the playground game commonly known as, Red Light, Green Light, Stop. You can modify the game to offer a cooperative game by asking the students to start in a straight line and hold hands. If the line does not stop at the same time, they must go back to the starting line, which encourages students to work together as a class or a group. Ask the students why they run when the caller says green light and stop when the caller says red light. Discuss the importance of following safety directions, signs, and signals.

Teacher Input:

Different colors on signs mean different things.

- **Red** signs mean stop or use caution.
- **Yellow** signs with black lettering are used to warn you of a hazardous area or an area with special rules.
- **Orange** signs with black lettering are used in areas where there is road construction.
- **Green** signals mean go. **Green** signs with white lettering show the directions and distances to different places.
- **Blue** signs show information, such as the route to a hospital or where camping is available.

Display either a picture or a transparency of the following road signs (using Appendix 1a- and describe what each sign means:

Stop Sign: When the signal light turns green, cars go. When you cross the street at a signal light, you should wait for the walk signal. Some corners don't have a walk signal, so you should wait for the green light to show in your direction. Remember cars may be turning, so be certain to look carefully to the left, right and left again before crossing the street. When the signal light turns red, cars stop. If the light is red in your direction, you should not walk across the street.

WALK signal: The WALK signal is found at busy intersections. It means that it is okay for you to cross the street. You should always look both ways, by looking left, right and left again to make sure no cars are coming or turning into the area where you are going to cross the street.

Person Walking signal: This signal is the same as the WALK sign. It has a picture of a person walking instead of using the word "WALK".

DON'T WALK signal: The DON'T WALK signal is part of the walk signal. You should wait to cross the street until the signal changes to WALK.

HAND - don't walk signal: This signal is the same as the DON'T WALK sign. It is part of the signal with the picture of a person walking. This is a picture of a red hand, meaning you should STOP. You should wait to cross the street until the white picture of the person walking is showing.

Yield sign: A yield sign means to slow down and be ready to stop. If there are people or vehicles in or approaching the intersection, you must stop. If there is no traffic approaching from either direction of the intersection and it is safe, you may go through.

Stop sign: Cars, bicycles and skaters must come to a complete stop at STOP signs. When there are no vehicles or people in the intersection and it is safe, you may go through the intersection.

One-Way sign: This is a one-way street, cars must travel in the direction of the arrow. This is also a rule for bikers and skaters.

Do Not Enter sign: Do not enter means that this is a one-way street, and you may not go this way. This is also a rule for bikes and in-line skates.

Crosswalk sign: This sign means you are coming to a crosswalk. Cars, bikes, and skaters must stop to allow people in the crosswalk to cross the street. If you are using a crosswalk to cross the street, you should look carefully to the left, right and left again to be sure it is safe to cross.

School Crossing sign: This sign means you are near a school. When school is opening in the morning and closing in the afternoon, the school is a very busy and crowded area. There are children being dropped off or picked up by both school buses and parents. It is important to look carefully to the left, right and left again if you have to cross the street. If you must walk through parked traffic, stop and look carefully before stepping out from between vehicles. Remember the danger areas close to school buses where the driver can't see you. Don't run to catch up with your friends or run between parked cars and buses.

Railroad Crossing sign: This sign means you are coming to a railroad crossing. Remind students that railroad tracks are uneven and you should not try to bicycle or skate over them. Many railroad grade crossings have a gate with a bell and blinking lights that closes when a train is approaching. NEVER go around a closed railroad gate. Trains are very large and heavy and take a long time to stop. Always look and listen carefully to be sure a train is not coming before crossing the tracks.

Practice & Assessment:

Activity 1

Share Tana Hoban's *I Read Signs* and/or *I Read Symbols* in the library/reading center of the classroom. While reviewing what each signal, symbol or sign means, talk about what geometric shape they represent: rectangle, square, triangle, hexagon or diamond. For each

page ask the students what polygon the traffic sign or signal represents. Possible questions: Where would you see this sign? What does it mean? Why are colors important?

Option 2

Read *A Hairy Race with a Tortise* by Margery Cuyler

Stop periodically to ask about the different signs, signals, and shapes in the book.

Activity 2

Read the following story, and display the corresponding signs from Appendix 1.

Ask the students follow the directions in the story and respond appropriately to the sign and signals presented.

Freddy the frog is **hopping** along the riverbank until he hears fast cars going by on the highway. Freddy **jogs** to the highway to watch the cars. Suddenly Freddy **walks** to the stop sign. After looking right and looking left and looking right again Freddy **walks** across the intersection. Freddy wants to turn right. He sees a yield sign and cautiously turns onto the highway. Freddy approaches his first traffic light and it is green so he **jogs** through the light. As he arrives at the second light, he notices that it is yellow so he slows down. The light turns red so he stops. When the light turns green Freddy **hops** across the intersection. Just before Freddy makes his way back to the riverbank he sees a railroad crossing sign. There are no flashing lights and no cross bar. He stops to look left, right and left again and carefully **walks** across the track heading back home on the riverbank.























