A CHANCE TO RIDE

Lesson 2
Signs & Traffic Symbols
Introduction

Signs & Traffic Symbols

Signs and traffic symbols are the primary way that safety information is communicated to a large number of individuals. Universal signage is another tool that can assist a student in acclimating to his or her environment and becoming aware of the surroundings. Understanding where to find signs and what signs represent aids in helping the student safely navigate his or her community. Signs are important in pre-planning the routes to travel. Level I of this lesson contains exercises on how to identify indoor signs and navigate common places found in a building. Level II brings the student into the community to identify signs and follow what they represent. Level III offers more advanced concepts concentrating on the difference between pedestrian and vehicular signage. All the levels teach students to scan their environments and pay attention to their surroundings.

For some students with ASD, signs can be confusing. Signs with pictures are often easier to read. Students must have a basic awareness of their surroundings to notice signs. However, fixation on preferred signs can cause individuals to lose focus or deviate from a route creating larger safety issues (i.e., someone who gravitates toward stop signs or railroad crossing signs). Some students may take signs very literally. For example, if they see a “One Way” directional sign for traffic, they may follow the direction of the arrow interpreting that it is meant for pedestrians as well as vehicles. Also, while signs can be excellent memory tools or anchors, if a sign changes, it may be very disorienting to the student’s travel routine.
GOAL
Gain an understanding of the meaning of common signs seen indoors.

PREREQUISITE
Students need to have the ability to discriminate and match objects.

MATERIALS PROVIDED
1) PowerPoint: Lesson 2 Level I Looking For Signs
2) Handout: Lesson 2 Level I Signs Practice Activity

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify the following indoor signs commonly found in public transit stations:
  - Exit
  - Women’s/Men’s restroom
  - Elevator
  - Stairs
  - Wet floor
  - Arrow indicating direction

Other signs pertinent to your area may be added.

INSTRUCTIONS

1) Use the PowerPoint Lesson 2 Level I Looking for Signs to present signs and discuss each sign’s meaning. It may be best to print out the PowerPoint to use as a picture book or load onto a tablet for each student.

   Signs are important because they help people. Some signs tell people what to do. Other signs tell people how to find things or what direction to go. Signs can be found on walls, doors, posts, hanging from ceilings and other places. Looking around an area helps people see nearby signs.

2) Take pictures of objects in your environment/school that correspond to the indoor signs presented in the lesson (stairs, elevator, etc.)

   Tip: To make it easier for students to follow along, give each student their own copy of the PowerPoint or download it to an iPad or Android device.
3) Give each student flashcards of signs from PowerPoint Lesson 2 Level I Looking for Signs. Take a walk around your building and have the students match the signs seen with the pictures on the flashcards.

Tip: For additional reinforcement, work with parents or guardians to review picture book or information loaded on tablet from Lesson 2 Level I Looking for Signs at home or in the community.

**STUDENT REVIEW**

- Use the handout Lesson 2 Level I Signs Practice Activity to review the lesson material.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXTENDED LEARNING**

- Practice “Looking for Signs” matching activity with flashcards in other indoor or outdoor community settings.

- Sign identification is a valuable skill for any individual to have. This website: [http://www.autism-community.com/safety-signs-and-signals/](http://www.autism-community.com/safety-signs-and-signals/) has a link to signs that can be made into flashcards as a way to review signs and their meanings across different settings to help with generalization of information.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Match signs seen in the community with their meaning.
- Indicate what messages signs convey to pedestrians and drivers of moving vehicles.

INSTRUCTIONS

1) Use pictures from the PowerPoint: Lesson 2 Level II Street Signs & Traffic Symbols or pictures taken in your community to identify the following signs and discuss their meaning:
   A. Stop sign
   B. Yield sign
   C. Traffic light
   D. Construction ahead
   E. Do not enter
   F. Railroad crossing
   G. Street sign and intersection
   H. Crosswalk
   I. Crosswalk light
   J. One way
   K. Bus stop sign

2) Have the students identify each sign and match them to their meaning.

3) Use the Lesson 2 Level II Signs & Traffic Symbols Matching Game to review signs and their meanings. Game Instructions:
   A. Make or have the students make matching game board using the materials provided (game board template and sign pictures).
   B. Cut out one set of signs to use to call out the signs. (Hint: glue the sheet of signs on thin cardboard before cutting them out or print them on card stock.)
C. Options for playing Signs & Traffic Symbols Matching Game:

Pick and call out the sign. Show the picture to the students. Have students find the sign or symbol on their card. Have the student mark the square on their game card.

OR

Hold up two signs or symbols. Read description of one of them from Sign Reference Sheet. Have students match description of the sign or symbol, read and show teacher/caller the correct match. Then have students mark it on their game cards.

OR

Hold up a sign or symbol. Select a student to share sign or symbol’s meaning with the class. Then have students select the matching sign or symbol and mark it on their game cards.

The winner is the student who gets 4 in a row (across, down or diagonally) or who fills his or her card.

STUDENT REVIEW

✓ Use handout Lesson 2 Level II Signs Practice Activity to review the lesson materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXTENDED LEARNING

✓ It is suggested to use Lesson 2 Levels II & III Signs & Traffic Symbols Reference Sheet as a template. Give each student a checklist of signs. Take a walk in your community. Have the students identify and indicate their meaning.

RESOURCES

✓ Safety Signs & Words app http://conovercompany.com/education/mobile-technology/applications
**GOAL**
Identify basic indoor and outdoor signs and meanings. Learn the importance of scanning the environment.

**PREREQUISITE**
A basic knowledge of indoor and outdoor signs and the signs in Levels I & II. Ability to travel in the community with minimal supervision.

**MATERIALS PROVIDED**
1) Handout: Lesson 2 Levels II & III Signs & Traffic Symbols Reference Sheet
2) Handout: Lesson 2 Level III: "Signs & Traffic Symbols Checklist"

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Match signs seen in the community with their meaning.
- Indicate which signs are signs for pedestrians and which are signs for drivers of moving vehicles.

**INSTRUCTION**
1) Review materials from Lesson 2 Level II.
2) Have students take a walk in their community, bring back at least 3 pictures of street signs and symbols to be used in a group discussion based on sign meaning and staying safe as a pedestrian.
3) Use the checklist and have students cut out images of signs/traffic symbols from handout Lesson 2 Levels II & III Signs & Traffic Symbols Reference Sheet and match to the description in Handout: Lesson 2 Level III Signs & Traffic Symbols Checklist.
4) Give each student Lesson 2 Level III Signs & Traffic Symbols Checklist. Have students identify and indicate meaning

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENDED LEARNING**
- Students can take additional sign and traffic symbol pictures when out in the community. Use photos to create their own scrapbook of signs and traffic symbols.

**RESOURCES**
- This website: [http://www.autism-community.com/safety-signs-and-signals/](http://www.autism-community.com/safety-signs-and-signals/) has a link to signs that can be made into flashcards as a way to review signs and their meanings across different settings to help with generalization of information.
Signs & Traffic Symbols
Lesson 2 Materials

1. Level I Looking for Signs (PowerPoint)
2. Level I Signs Practice Activity
3. Level II Street Signs & Traffic Symbols (PowerPoint)
4. Level II Signs & Traffic Symbols Matching Game
5. Levels II & III Signs & Traffic Symbols Reference Sheet
6. Level II Signs Practice Activity
7. Level III Signs & Traffic Symbols Checklist
Looking for Signs
Lesson 2 Level I

Slide 1

Slide 2

Slide 3

Slide 4

Slide 5

Slide 6
Directions: Circle the signs you will find indoors.

Directions: Draw a line connecting the sign to its meaning.
Street Signs & Traffic Symbols
Lesson 2 Level II

Teachers notes available in electronic version.

Slide 1

Slide 2

Slide 3

Slide 4

Slide 5

Slide 6
Street Signs & Traffic Symbols
Lesson 2 Level II (continued)

Slide 7

YIELD SIGN
Drivers need to slow down and let crossing traffic go before proceeding.

Slide 10

CONSTRUCTION SIGNS
The path might need to be altered because of construction. Be aware of trucks and other moving equipment that could be dangerous. Look for cones and other signs telling pedestrians where it is safe to walk.

Slide 8

RAILROAD CROSSING SIGN
Look both ways before waiting across a railroad crossing. Be aware of gates that may move to block pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Lights, bells, and train horns may warn of oncoming trains.

Slide 11

BUS STOP SIGNS
This sign shows people where to wait for the bus. In most systems, the bus will not stop if a person is not waiting.

Slide 9

ONE WAY SIGNS
This sign indicates that drivers should be going down the road in one direction. Pedestrians can walk in either direction, preferably on the sidewalks.
SAFETY TIP: Even though cars should be coming from one direction, look in both directions before crossing.
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Signs & Traffic Symbols
Matching Game
Lesson 2 Level II
Signs & Traffic Symbols Reference Sheet  
Lesson 2 Levels II & III

Stop Sign
Drivers must come to a full stop and look for oncoming vehicles and pedestrians before continuing. Drivers must allow pedestrians to cross the street before they continue driving. Pedestrians should watch for vehicles to stop and make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.

Yield Sign
When drivers see this sign they need to slow down to let crossing traffic go ahead of them. In most cases, drivers will not come to a full stop at a yield sign.

Construction Ahead
Construction signs let drivers and pedestrians know road work is happening nearby. This warning helps to guide pedestrians and vehicular traffic safely past any hazards. When a flag person or police officer is directing traffic around the work zone, you must obey that person’s directions.

Do Not Enter
Drivers may not enter with vehicles in this direction when they see this sign.

Street Signs
Street signs may be found at the end of streets and at street intersections. Street signs indicate the name of the street. Sometimes knowing the street names can be helpful for navigating your way, following directions, or telling someone where you are.
Railroad Crossing
This sign indicates that the train crosses ahead. Drivers and pedestrians should look to see if a train is approaching and obey the signals to stop if present. Do not stop on a train track.

Crosswalk
Pedestrians are expected to cross the street at crosswalks when present. Pedestrians should make sure all vehicles have stopped before crossing the street.

Directional Signs
Signs like these indicate the direction to take to get to a specific location. These signs may look very different from each other. Almost all signs have arrows to show the correct direction to proceed.

One Way Signs
One way signs instruct drivers to drive in only one direction. These signs typically do not apply to pedestrians.

Bus Stop Signs
These signs indicate places where a bus will stop to pick up or drop off passengers. It is usually illegal for vehicles to park at a bus stop.
Traffic Signals

Red Traffic Symbol (Red Light)
Drivers must stop at a red traffic signal.

Yellow Traffic Symbol (Yellow Light)
A yellow traffic light indicates that drivers should reduce their speed and proceed with caution.

Green Traffic Symbol (Green Light)
A green traffic signal indicates that drivers may proceed if the way is clear.
Pedestrian Crosswalk Light

**Pedestrian Symbol or the Word: WALK**

Pedestrians can cross the street when they see this symbol is displayed. Always look both left and right and left again before crossing the street to make sure all vehicles have stopped.

**Hand Symbol or Words: DON’T WALK**

Pedestrians should not cross the street when this symbol is displayed.

**Crosswalk Light Button**

Pedestrians may push this button to display the pedestrian walking symbol. It may take a few minutes for the pedestrian walking symbol to be displayed. Pushing the button does not mean it is safe to cross.

**Hand Symbol with Numbers Counting Down (flashing)**

Pedestrians should not start crossing the street if they have not started. If a pedestrian has started crossing when this light begins flashing with numbers counting down, the pedestrian must finish crossing the street.
Signs
Practice Activity
Lesson 2 Level II

Directions: Circle the letter (A., B. or C.) that is the correct answer.

The railroad sign:
A. Is a warning for drivers only.
B. Walk around this area.
C. Indicates that the train crosses ahead. Drivers and pedestrians should look to see if a train is approaching and obey the signals to stop if present.

When a pedestrian wants to cross a street with a one way sign the pedestrian should:
A. Walk into the street without looking
B. Look in both directions before crossing. Even though cars should only be driving down this road one way, it is better to double check cars are not coming from both sides.
C. Only look in one direction before crossing the street.

This stop sign tells pedestrians:
A. Cars should stop at this sign. I can cross the street here if there are no cars coming.
B. Cars should stop at this sign. I can always cross the street near a stop sign and cars will stop for me.
C. Crossing at a stop sign is dangerous and I should never try to cross the street here.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sign</th>
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<tr>
<td>At this sign drivers look for oncoming vehicles and pedestrians before</td>
<td>Pedestrians expected to cross the street at crosswalks when present.</td>
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<td>continuing to drive. Drivers should allow pedestrians to cross the street</td>
<td>Pedestrians expected to pedestrian to get to a specific location.</td>
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<td>before they continue driving. Pedestrians should watch for vehicles to stop</td>
<td>These signs indicate places where a bus will stop to pick up or drop</td>
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<td>before crossing the street.</td>
<td>off passengers.</td>
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<td>When drivers see this sign they need to slow down the speed of the car</td>
<td>Drivers must stop at red traffic signal.</td>
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<td>they are driving to let crossing traffic go before proceeding. This is not</td>
<td>Pedestrian can cross the street when they see this symbol displayed in</td>
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<td>a great place for a pedestrian to cross. Pedestrian may need to look for</td>
<td>white. Always look before crossing the street to make sure vehicles have</td>
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<td>a safer place to cross.</td>
<td>stopped.</td>
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<td>Construction signs let drivers and pedestrian know work is happening</td>
<td>One-way signs instruct drivers to drive down a street in one direction.</td>
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<td>nearby. This warning helps to guide pedestrians and vehicle traffic safely</td>
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<td>around the work zone, you must obey signals or directions.</td>
<td>off passengers.</td>
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<td>Drivers may not enter with cars in this direction when they see this sign.</td>
<td>Drivers must stop at red traffic signal.</td>
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<td>These signs are found at the end of streets and indicate the name of the</td>
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<td>street. Sometime knowing the street names can be helpful for navigating</td>
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