



Helpful Signs

Draw a helpful sign for a toy character.

Helps Your Child Grow



Writing

Drawing a sign for a specific need gives your child practice using pictures, symbols, or simple marks to communicate a message.



Fine Motor

Holding a drawing tool and controlling lines while making signs gives your child practice with fine-motor coordination.

Steps

- Gather paper, drawing tools, and a small toy character. During pretend play, give the character simple problems and invite your child to draw signs that can help.
- Explore different purposes for signs: showing a place, explaining a rule, or giving a helpful reminder.
- Create a problem that matches each kind of sign so your child has a meaningful reason to communicate through marks and pictures.
- For example, pretend the character cannot find the bathroom and ask your child to make a sign.
- Your child might draw a toilet or use circles and lines as a symbol. Let the character look at it and say, "I understand - the bathroom is over there!"
- If your child has an idea but cannot draw it yet, talk together about what picture or mark might communicate the meaning.
- After several rounds, your child can begin to discover that a drawn symbol can carry an idea from one person to another.

Tips

- At three and a half, children may not write conventional words yet, but pictures, symbols, numbers, and simple marks can already communicate meaning.
- Before drawing, ask, "What could you put on the sign so the animal knows this is the bathroom?"

Observations

- Draws a circle to represent the restroom location
- Draws simple lines with a drawing tool