POWER DISCOVERY ZONE

KS2

FACTSHEET 8

Warning Signs

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

How to use this worksheet

- Take the children out to an appropriate place to look for warning signs including ones about electricity*. Start in the school grounds. They should record the signs they see either by sketching or using a digital camera. Store digital images on a computer for reference.
- They should also make notes of where each sign is, what it warns about and what makes it noticeable. If the sign is electronically operated they should note this, too.
- Back in the classroom, ask about any symbols they noticed. Are the same symbols used in different signs? Discuss how standard symbols are useful. Also ask about any commonly used colours and shapes.

*Always carry out a risk assessment before undertaking class work away from school.

Key Electricity Facts

- Warning signs should be highly visible and instantly recognisable through their shape, design, colour, sound or other effect, such as a flashing light.
- The use of standard symbols helps people to recognise dangers, for example: a triangular shape and yellow background for warning signs concerning electricity.
- Warning signs need to be understood by everyone, so they must be simple. For instance, even young children will recognise that an outline of a person falling to the ground with a zigzag pointing at them means danger.

Exercise Extension: Ask the children to plan and make a warning sign that makes a sound or lights up by means of a pressure pad, light sensor or sound sensor. They should explain what their sign is for, where it could be used and by whom. Link this with work in ICT to connect the pressure pad to a voice message. For example: 'Stop. Your shopping trolley will lock here!' (at the edge of a supermarket car park) or 'Take care. Steps!' to help sight impaired children at school.

National Curriculum supporting information

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Knowledge, skills & understanding, Developing, planning & communicating ideas:
1a) generating ideas for products after thinking about who will use them and what they will be used for, and using information from a number of sources

Breadth of study:
5a) investigating and evaluating a range of familiar products, thinking about how they work and how they are used

ICT

Developing ideas and making things happen:
2b) how to create, test, improve and refine sequences of instructions to make things happen and to monitor events and respond to them

Related Material
www.switchedonkids.org.uk/fun-and-learning/electricity-quiz

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POWER DISCOVERY ZONE

KS2

WORKSHEET 8

Warning Signs

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Look at warning signs about electricity.

1. Look around for warning signs in the street, on fences and on or inside buildings.
2. Sketch or use a digital camera to photograph them and record where they are.
3. What do they warn you about?
4. What makes you notice them?

Signs	1	2	3	4
Look at your photos or sketches. Under each of the no's 1, 2 3 and 4, draw a sign you saw				
Where did you see the sign?				
What does it warn you about?				
What makes you notice it?				
Is there anything special about how it works? e.g: Does it switch on and off, and when?				

Now try this!

Design a warning sign about something electrical.
Make it switch on/off when needed.

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