

Illustrating LSP: Literacy for beginners in the Trowel occupations

Defining the Trowel Occupations

Module for illustration: Signs, signals and labels

Activity 1: signs and symbols used around the site

Trowel occupations

- Trowel occupations involves any occupation where any one of several hand tools used for digging, smoothing, or otherwise moving around small amounts of viscous or particulate material is used.
- Examples of trowel occupations are found in building and construction, digging, gardening, bricklaying and concrete construction

Skills checklist: Tick the skills you have already and then look at the checklist again when you have used the materials.

Skills for understanding signs, signals and labels Now		
Recognising and understanding safety signs		
Understanding and using hand signals		
Understanding risk assessments and site procedures		
Understanding health and safety information		
Reporting an accident verbally		
Completing an accident report form		

Learning outcomes

- To know that the shape and colour of signs indicates their purpose
- To interpret a range of symbols

Instructions to teachers

- Show learners a range of signs (full size) and ask for their meanings – include examples of different types of signs. Ask learners to identify on the site plan where they might find these signs.
- Using packs of cards in small groups, ask learners to sort the signs into different types by colour and shape and then to name each category. (Note: it is important that learners know the purpose of the categories but not necessarily the right terminology at this stage.)

Activities

- **Task 1:** Identify types of signs by shape
 - Remind learners that the shape of a sign gives an indication of the type of sign it is – prohibitive, mandatory, warning, etc.
 - Learners need to be familiar with the correct terms used to describe each type of sign. These are shown on the focus page.
 - Extension: Ask learners to give examples of actual signs that fit into each category shown
- **Task 2 :** Put together shape, colour, written meaning and appropriate symbol to complete a sign
 - Remind learners that shape and colour indicate the type of message, and that symbols can give a message on their own.
 - Start by matching the shape and colour of the sign to the written message, then add the correct symbol.
 - Extension: Create a sign for a set hazard. Learners can use a computer to do this.
 - Discuss with learners other signs on their site or in the workshop that are specific to their site (e.g. Report to ... before driving onto site; Your Health and Safety Officer is ...; This site is protected by...).