

# Making a Sign

by Fifi Colston



A sign is a good way to get a message across. Signs can show people where things are or give them instructions. Sometimes people use signs to share what they think.

When you're making a sign, it helps to know three things:

- what you want to say (the message)
- how you want to say it (what you want the sign to look like)
- what you will use to say it (the materials).

## >> What do you want to say?

Be clear about your message. What do you want people to think or do when they read your sign? For example, maybe you live by the sea and penguins sometimes cross the road to get to their nests. Is this message clear?

### Slow Penguins

It could mean that the penguins don't move very quickly! How about this?

### Slow Down. Penguins Crossing.

This is clearer. It says that you want drivers to be careful so that any penguins crossing the road are safe.

## >> How do you want to say it?

Choose the style of letters carefully. Try out different styles. Make sure they can be seen from a distance. Would it be better to print the message using a computer? Check your spelling and spacing.

Which sign would make you want to buy the feijoas?

Home-grown  
FEIJOAS  
\$2 a bag

Home-gro-  
wn  
FEIJOAS  
\$2 a bag

HOME-grown  
feijoa  
two dollars a bag

Home-grown  
Feijoas  
\$2 a bag



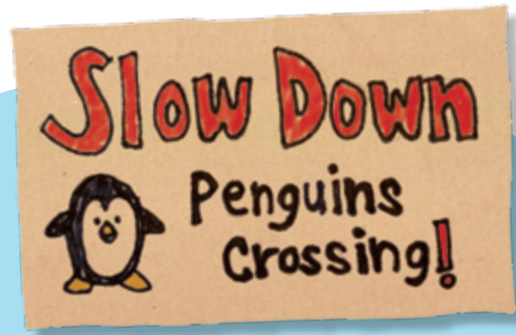
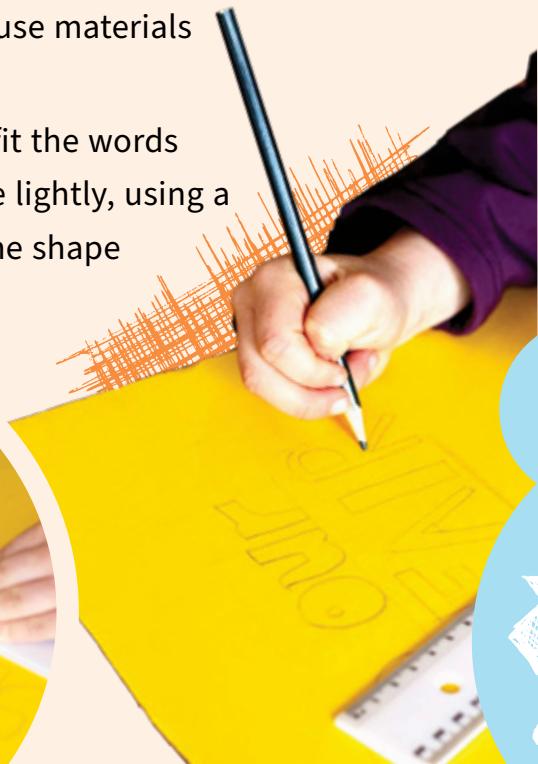
Then use paint or marker pens to finish the letters. Choose colours that stand out.



### >> What will you use to say it?

You can make a sign with paper, cardboard, or an old sign that you have recycled. If your sign is going to be outside in wet weather, make sure you use materials that won't get soggy.

First, work out how you will fit the words on the sign. Write your message lightly, using a ruler to help make the letters the shape and size you want.



The back of the sign can be used for a message, too!

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ISBN 978 1 77663 867 3 (online)  
ISSN 2463 4174 (online)

Publishing Services: Lift Education E Tū  
Editor: David Chadwick  
Designer: Liz Tui Morris  
Literacy Consultant: Dr Kay Hancock  
Consulting Editors: Hōne Apanui, Te Mako Orzecki, and Emeli Sione

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## JUNIOR JOURNAL 62

<b>Curriculum learning areas</b>	English The Arts: Visual Arts
<b>Reading year level</b>	Year 3
<b>Keywords</b>	clarity, communication, design, font, instruction, lettering, message, planning, sign