

## Signs Are Used to Guide...

...and direct motorist. However, unnecessary signs can confuse, distract and irritate motorists.

Use of unnecessary signs can promote a disrespect for all signs. The best example is the “CHILDREN AT PLAY” sign.

While it may seem that this sign would protect neighborhood youngsters, facts indicate otherwise. Although some communities have posted these signs in residential areas, no evidence exists to prove that these signs help reduce pedestrian accidents or lower speeds.

Studies have shown that many signs in residential areas, which are installed to “warn” drivers of normal conditions, fail to improve safety.

A Traffic Safety Message  
From the  
City of Springfield  
Public Works Department



For more information:  
417-864-1980  
<http://www.springfieldmo.gov/traffic>

Will  
Children At Play  
Signs  
Help Slow Traffic ?



City of Springfield  
Department of Public Works  
Traffic Engineering Division

## Pedestrians Can Get a False Sense of Security...

...since drivers often disregard these signs.

Signs that encourage parents or children to believe they have added protection with children in or near a street (when they do not) can do more harm than good. Children should not be encouraged to play in the street. Federal standards reject these signs because they openly suggest that playing in the street is acceptable.



The primary concern for most citizens is general speeding in residential areas. Speeding must be dealt with in other ways and methods to be effective. Contact the City Traffic Engineer at (417)864-1980 to report speeding in neighborhoods.

## Since Children Live On Nearly...

...every residential block, if used, the signs would have to be placed on each street.

Blocks with no signs might imply that no children live there, so that the expectation of children is lessened

Because of these serious concerns, the City of Springfield



does not recognize “CHILDREN AT PLAY” signs as safe to install. Specific warnings for school areas and crosswalks are available for use where they clearly serve a purpose.

Warning signs can be effective tools if used sparingly and only to warn motorists of uncommon hazards that are not apparent to drivers.

# REMEM-

Children At Play signs:

- ✦ Are Generally Disregarded by Motorists
- ✦ Can Give Pedestrians a False Sense of Security