



CITY OF SHREVEPORT

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CHILDREN AT PLAY

On occasion, the City of Shreveport receives a request for “Children at Play” signs from citizens who are concerned about speeding in residential areas and would like these signs installed to provide protection for their children. The concern about residential speeding is very understandable, and we too share that concern. However, these signs are not only ineffective, but also deceptive.

Children playing in a residential area is not uncommon. Drivers should recognize this fact and expect the presence of children, especially at certain times of the day. Our experience and studies by other agencies have shown that attempts to warn of normal everyday conditions fail to achieve the desired safety benefits.

“Children at Play” signs also tend to create a false sense of security for children and parents who believe the signs provide an added degree of protection when motorists, particularly local motorists, pay little attention to them. The use of Children at Play and similar signs such as Slow or Slow— Entering Residential Area has long been discouraged since these signs are a direct and open suggestion to small children that sitting or lying down in the roadway is acceptable. Parents may also believe such signs reduce speeds. No evidence exists that these signs prevent accidents or reduce the speeds of vehicles.

Because “Children at Play” signs are ineffective and deceptive, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the standard for all traffic devices, does not recognize this sign. The use of non-standard signs by the city is meant for extreme or unexpected dangers.

Therefore, the City of Shreveport no longer installs “Children at Play” signs on public streets. Any existing signs, as they age and become damaged, are removed and not replaced.

If a speeding problem exists, we encourage you to contact the Shreveport Police Department to report the street you have concerns. They may be reached during normal business hours at 318-673-7206 or 318-673-7207.

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