



THE CITY DOESN'T INSTALL "SLOW - CHILDREN AT PLAY" SIGNS WHY?

How should warning signs be used?

Warning signs are most effective when used sparingly and are intended to advise motorists of an unusual or unexpected condition ahead. These types of signs have little value if used extensively. A frequent neighborhood request is to install generalized warning signs with the message "SLOW-CHILDREN AT PLAY" or a sign having a similar message. What prompts these requests may be the parents' concern for the safety of children in the streets near their home or the public's perception that certain traffic signs will provide them protection.

Not an official sign



The City of Dallas must comply with state and federal laws when it comes to traffic control devices with the use of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD). The "Children at Play" sign is not a recognized sign by the Federal or Texas "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices." The primary reason that this sign is not approved for use is that research has proven that the sign does not reduce pedestrian accidents or lower vehicle speeds. The NCHRP provided a report in "Synthesis of Highway Practice No. 139 Pedestrians and Traffic Control Measures" (1988) indicating that "Non-uniform signs such as 'Caution - Children at Play', 'Slow - Children at Play', 'Slow - Children' or similar legends should not be permitted at any time... the removal of any non-standard signs should carry a high priority."

Children playing signs can give parents a false sense of security. Also, children may misinterpret the signs to mean it is acceptable to play in the street. Children should not be encouraged to play within the street travel ways. To assist with any concerns, the City can review options based on the TMUTCD Section 2C.51; the installation of the "Playground Sign (W15-1)" which "may be used to give advance warning of a designated children's playground that is located adjacent to the road".



For more information, please contact the City of Dallas Transportation Field Operations. We want to work with you to ensure your safety. For additional information, please call 214-670-3123.
