

**A traffic safety message
from the Metro Nashville
Public Works department's
Neighborhood Traffic
Management Program.**

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**Will CHILDREN
AT PLAY Signs
Slow Traffic
on Our
Streets?**



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CHILDREN AT PLAY signs don't help improve safety.



While it may seem that this sign would protect neighborhood youngsters, facts indicate otherwise. Although some cities 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” people of normal conditions, fail to improve safety. Warning signs can be effective tools if used sparingly and only to warn motorists of uncommon hazards that are not apparent to drivers.

CHILDREN AT PLAY signs don't protect children.

These signs can give parents a false sense of security since drivers often disregard these signs. Signs that encourage parents or children to believe they have added protection (which they do not) do more harm than good. Children should not be encouraged to play in the street. **A sign cannot replace the parent's responsibility to monitor their children.** Federal standards, such as the National Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, reject these signs because they openly suggest that playing in the street is acceptable.



CHILDREN AT PLAY signs would have to be installed on every block.

Since children live on nearly every residential block, the “CHILDREN AT PLAY” signs, if used, would have to be placed on each street. Blocks with no signs might imply that no children live there, so it's all right to speed.

Does Nashville install **CHILDREN AT PLAY** SIGNS?

Because of these serious concerns, Metro Nashville and other government jurisdictions do not recognize or install “CHILD AT PLAY” signs. Specific warnings for schools and crosswalks are available for use where they clearly serve a purpose.

REMEMBER, CHILDREN AT PLAY signs are generally disregarded by motorists and they give parents a false sense of security!

Metro Nashville
Public Works

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