



CHILDREN AT PLAY/BLIND CHILD/DEAF CHILD

Do warning signs such as 'Slow Children At Play,' 'Blind Child Area,' and 'Deaf Child' provide protection for children?

Unfortunately, according to the studies, the answer to this question is no!

On occasion, we receive requests for these signs from citizens who are concerned about speeding in residential areas and want 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 are also deceptive.

Children playing in a residential area is not uncommon. Drivers recognize this fact and expect the presence of children. Therefore, 'Slow Children At Play,' 'Blind Child Area,' and 'Deaf Child' signs are a warning of an obvious condition. Our experience and studies by other agencies have shown that attempts to warn of obvious conditions fail to achieve the desired safety benefits. There is no evidence that suggests that these signs prevent accidents or reduce speeds.

These warning signs are also deceptive for children and give parents a false sense of security. There is an all-too-common misconception that these signs provide an added degree of protection. Motorists, particularly local ones, become used to seeing the signs and actually begin to pay little attention to them. The result can be a dangerous situation where children are allowed to play in the street with the belief that they are safe.

As these signs are not recognized by the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and there are definite problems associated with them, it is the City of Killeen's policy not to install these warning signs.