

# CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGNS

Why doesn't the City put up "Children at Play" signs?

The City of O'Fallon often receives requests for the posting of generalized warning signs that read "Slow – Children at Play" or similar messages. This is due to the understandable parental concern for the safety and protection of their children and often misplaced public faith in traffic signals providing that protection.

The City of O'Fallon's ordinance requires the City to follow the Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) rules and regulations regarding traffic control devices. MoDOT has adopted the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which has also been adopted as the Federal Standard and discourages the use of "Children at Play" signs. The signs are not enforceable and impose no legal requirements on motorists.

An alternative option available would be to obtain a **"Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25"** metal street sign. These signs serve as a reminder to the drivers as to the speed limit. The metal street signs can be purchased at the web site that is on the back of the brochure, you must purchase the **24" x 32" signs**. The City will install the signs once they are delivered. Please remember this is a neighborhood project, let everyone know these signs will be installed to deter speeding. If you need additional information and/or help with coordinating the installation, please contact Conan Stott at 636.379.5550 or via email at [cstott@ofallon.mo.us](mailto:cstott@ofallon.mo.us).

"Children at Play" signs can give parents a false sense of their child's security and the children may misinterpret the signs to mean playing in the street is acceptable. Children should not be encouraged to play on vehicle traveled roadways. These types of signs have been rejected because they suggest this behavior is acceptable.

Although other communities have posted such signs widely in residential areas, no factual evidence has been presented to document their success in reducing pedestrian accidents, operating speeds or legal liability. Since nearly every residential block has children living on it, the City would be required to install these signs on each street when requested. Studies have shown that signs which attempt to warn of conditions that are ordinary in residential areas have failed to achieve their desired safety benefits.