



Warning Signs

Will "Children at Play" signs improve the safety of our children?

Yellow traffic and pedestrian warning signs are basically used to provide a safe and orderly flow of vehicles and people in our streets. They also provide motorists, pedestrians and cyclists with ample warning of impending conditions. However, unnecessary signs can be distracting and confusing to motorists, making them disrespectful of the safety measures and the people they are designed to protect.

Unnecessary signs produce a dangerous false sense of security in pedestrians. A clear example of this is the "Children at Play" sign.

Facts indicate that this sign does not protect neighborhood youngsters as it is intended to. There is no evidence showing that these signs have helped reduce vehicle speed and pedestrian accidents in the residential areas where they have been installed.

There is no need to install signs in residential areas to "warn" motorists about already-existing normal conditions. When such signs are installed, they only give children and pedestrians a false sense of security and thus fail to improve safety.

Children should not be encouraged to play in the street. In fact, Federal standards reject these signs because they openly suggest that playing in the streets is acceptable.

Children live on nearly every residential block. Placing those signs in one street would require placing them in every street. Otherwise, streets with no signs might imply that no children live in that area and that motorists have the right to speed there.

There are signs designed specifically for schools and crosswalks that serve a clear and practical purpose. Because of the concerns they raise, "Children at Play" signs are not recognized traffic control devices and are not used in most areas within Arizona.

Warning signs are effective tools only when used to alert motorists of uncommon hazards.

If you would like to ask questions or discuss further, please call the Public Works Department at 623-349-6800.