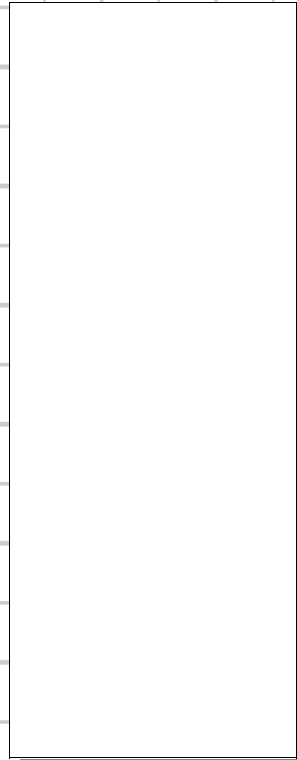


**TRANSPORTATION BROCHURE SERIES
"WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:"**

- 1) Children at Play
- 2) Stop Signs and Traffic Signals
- 3) How Speed Limits Are Set
- 4) Adult School Crossing Guards
- 5) Marked Pedestrian Crosswalks

The Following Are Being Developed:

- 6) Suggested School Routes
- 7) Traffic Flow Modifications and Street Closures
- 8) Traffic Safety Tips
- 9) A Clear View: Vegetation and Traffic Safety
- 10) Flashing Beacons
- 11) Parking Pointers
- 12) Pedestrian Signals
- 13) Left-turns at Traffic Signals
- 14) Driveway and Curb Access Policy
- 15) Bicycle Safety
- 16) Neighborhood Traffic Safety
- 17) Street Lights
- 18) Neighborhood Traffic Management



***What You Should
Know About:***

***Children
At
Play***



City of Lewisville
Community Development
1197 W. Main
Lewisville, TX 75029-9002



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHILDREN AT PLAY

Safety Factors Relating to Children At Play

The City of Lewisville often receives requests to install signs warning drivers of the possible presence of children at play. Concerned citizens fail to realize that these signs are deceiving and ineffective.

Drivers already expect the presence of children in residential areas, especially at certain times, and studies show that devices attempting to warn motorists of normal conditions or conditions that are not always present fail to achieve the desired safety benefits.

False Sense of Security

"Children at Play" signs also tend to create a false sense of security for parents and children who believe the signs provide an added degree of protection when motorists, particularly local ones, actually pay little attention to them.

The use of Children at Play and similar signs such as Slow or Slow - Entering Residential Area has long been discouraged since these signs are a direct and open suggestion to small children that sitting or lying down in the roadway is acceptable.

Parents also seem to believe such signs may help reduce speeds. There is no evidence that these signs prevent accidents or reduce the speed of vehicles. If problems with speeding exist, stricter enforcement should be sought from law enforcement authorities.



Signs Used to Warn of Pedestrians in the Roadway

The MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) is the national standard for all traffic control devices. The MUTCD specifies the following two signs to warn of the presence of pedestrians in a marked crosswalk in the roadway. The difference in these signs is the pentagon (pointed) sign is used at marked crosswalks in school areas.



The MUTCD also calls for warning signs in park areas with large concentrations of children (see-saw sign). The City of Lewisville installs a warning sign to alert drivers where deaf children live because these children cannot hear an approaching car.



City Policy on Children at Play Signs

The City of Lewisville is very concerned about child safety and if Children at Play signs were effective, these traffic control devices would be installed on every City street where children lived or visited. Unfortunately, this would lead to a proliferation of signs that drivers would ignore without achieving the desired safety benefit. Moreover, drivers would ignore signs specified by the MUTCD to warn of pedestrians in crosswalks, parks, and deaf child areas. Therefore, the City of Lewisville does not install Children at Play signs on public streets.

Lower Speed Limits

Citizens frequently request lower speed limits on residential streets where children play. Texas law states that the unposted speed limit on a residential street is 30 mph and this limit can be enforced without signs. The City of Lewisville has posted 25 mph limits on all residential streets (5 mph below the state limit) to enhance child safety and promote traffic calming. The City cannot post lower speed limits in areas other than school zones because the posting of such signs by a local government agency is considered a speed trap and oppressive.



Addressing the Safety of Young Children

Unnecessary signs confuse and annoy drivers and foster a disrespect for all signs, but signs in accordance with the MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) can and should be posted for school zones and pedestrian crossings as well as playgrounds and other recreational areas where a need exists.

Most importantly, parents should teach children the dangers of playing in or near roadways and strongly discourage them from doing so. The City provides neighborhood parks where children can play safely with proper supervision. Safe playgrounds are also provided at many elementary school sites.

Addressing Citizen Concerns

We take our role in solving traffic problems seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests on the citizens of Lewisville. Since we receive over 350 citizen requests per year, we appreciate your patience and understanding in processing your request. If you have questions or suggestions concerning traffic, please call the City Traffic Engineer at (972) 219-3699.