

City of Nacogdoches

Traffic Committee

Comprised of
representatives from City
Departments:

- i Police
- i Fire
- i Engineering
- i Public Works
- i Planning

The Traffic Committee
reviews requests and
concerns from citizens
regarding traffic issues, such
as:

- i Speed limits
- i Stop signs
- i On-street parking
- i Speed humps
- i Driveway variances
- i Traffic signals



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What You Should Know About Children at Play Signs



What you should know about children at play

Safety Factors Relating to Children at Play

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

Drivers should 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 children and parents 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 may also believe such signs reduce speeds. There is no evidence that these signs prevent accidents or reduce the speeds of vehicles. If problems with speeding exist, stricter enforcement should be sought from law enforcement authorities.

Signs Used to Warn 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.



City Policy on Children at Play Signs

The City of Nacogdoches 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, driver would ignore signs specified by the MUTCD to warn of pedestrians in crosswalks, parks, and deaf child areas. Therefore, the City of Nacogdoches does not install Children at Play signs on public streets.

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 can and should be posted for schools zones and pedestrian crossings 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 parks where children can play safely with proper supervision. Safe playgrounds are also provided at all 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 the City of Nacogdoches. Since we receive many requests each year, we appreciate your patience and understanding in processing your request. If you have questions or suggestions concerning traffic, please call the City Planning Department at 936-559-2571.