

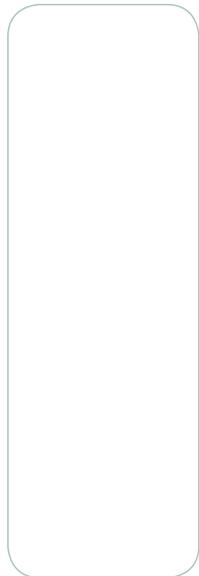


## Children at Play: Traffic Safety Factors

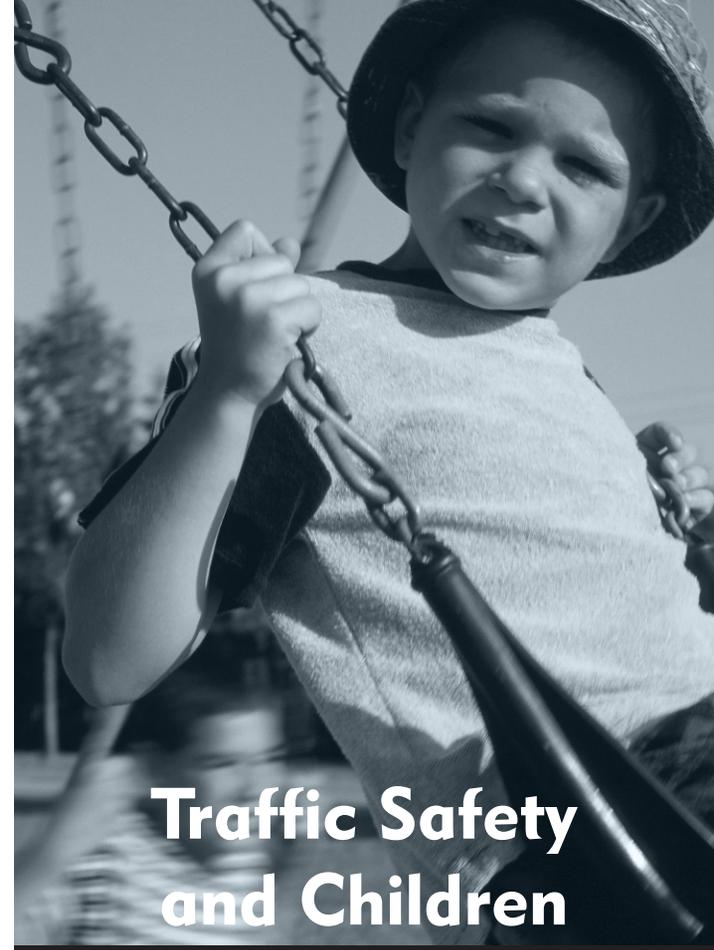
The City of Murrieta often receives requests to install signs warning drivers of the possible presence of children at play. These requests are based on a widespread belief that traffic signs will provide protection for the safety of children in the street near their home. However, these signs are not standard traffic control devices and have not been found to be effective in improving the safety of children nor changing the driving behavior within a neighborhood.



**City of Murrieta**  
Public Works and Engineering Department  
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If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic issues, please contact the Public Works and Engineering Department: (951) 304-CITY (2489) or through the "At Your Service" link at: [www.murrieta.org](http://www.murrieta.org)



## Traffic Safety and Children



**NTMP**  
Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

## False Sense of Security

"Children at Play" signs tend to create a false sense of security for parents and children who believe the signs provide an added degree of protection when actually motorists, particularly locals, pay little attention to them. The use of "Children at Play" and similar signs such as "Slow" or "Slow—Entering Residential Area" have long been discouraged by traffic officials since these signs are a direct and open suggestion that children playing within the street travelways is acceptable.

There is a widespread belief that such signs may help reduce speeds within residential neighborhoods. However, there is no factual evidence documenting the success of these signs in reducing pedestrian accidents, operating speeds or legal liability. If speeding problems exist within a residential area, it should be brought to the attention of the Murrieta Police Department who are responsible for vehicle code enforcement in the City.

Unnecessary signs confuse and annoy drivers and foster disrespect for all signs, but signs in accordance with the State of California's Department of Transportation regulations can and should be posted for school zones and pedestrian crossings as well as playgrounds and other recreational areas where a need exists.



## City Policy on Children at Play Signs

"Children at Play" and similar signs are not recognized by the State of California or the Federal Highway Administration as official traffic control devices and, therefore, are not installed by the City on public streets.

More importantly, parents should discourage their children to play within the street travelways.

Neighborhood parks are located within the City and provide a place where children can play safely with proper supervision. Safe playgrounds are also provided at many elementary school sites.

The City takes its role in solving traffic problems very seriously, yet the ultimate burden of safety rests with you, the citizen of the City of Murrieta.

## Request for Speed Limit Signs

Citizens frequently request 10 miles per hour (mph) speed limit signs on residential streets where children are playing. The speed limit on a residential street (whether posted or not) is 25 mph. A sign posted with a lower speed limit would be considered by the court to constitute a speed trap and any citations issued would become invalid.



**Public Works and Engineering Department**

