

MOTORIST/PARENT ALERT - CHILDREN AT PLAY

After winter, we all welcome the return of warmer weather. Spring and summer bring longer hours of daylight and more children, pedestrians, bicycles, skateboards, rollerblading and moped traffic to our roadways.

Motorists should be alert to this situation and drive cautiously about town. The police traffic bureau suggests that because our streets maintain more and more automobile traffic, all bicyclists should wear an approved bicycle helmet. However, children under 14 years of age are required, by state law to wear approved helmets. To insure compliance, parents will be notified if their child's helmet is not being worn. In some cases a summons, answerable in municipal court, may be issued. Moped operators of any age are required to wear a helmet.

- Parents should also caution their children to follow safety practices throughout the year. The Police Department suggests:
- Parents should instruct their children to walk with friends when going to and from school and when at play. In addition, parents should insist that their children let them know where they will be at all times.
- Adults must caution children not to accept rides, candy or gifts from strangers. Instruct children to walk or run away and, if possible, obtain a license plate number and physical description of the person. Many children have learned techniques from the police in their school classes. Parents should continue this type of training by playing "what if" games with their children. Call the Wyckoff Police Department at 201-891-2121 if you require help or information in this area.
- All citizens should report the presence of suspicious persons or automobiles to the police. Only through citizen cooperation and assistance can the police be effective in providing necessary protection.