



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2009 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Rebecca C. Stark	Project Number J0316
Project Title Cars and Children at Play	
Abstract Objectives/Goals The purpose of my project was to investigate the most effective way to keep children safe and prevent accidents when children are playing on or near streets. I wanted to observe the influence of children in the street and different warning signs on drivers. Methods/Materials First, chalk was used to mark four hundred feet on the street. The person at the beginning and end of the four hundred feet had a walkie-talkie. The person at the end also had timer. A plastic child sign and a clapboard "Slow" sign were used in the project, each one tested with and without a kid playing on the street. Results Overall, the plastic child sign (sign 1) with a child playing on the street was the most effective in the slowing down the driver. The clapboard sign (sign 2) did slow the car down a significant amount, but not as much as the plastic child sign. Both signs are more effective if a child is present in the street. Conclusions/Discussion Although playing on the street is never truly safe, these "Caution: Children at Play" signs do reduce the drivers speed significantly. Drivers know to watch for children when driving, so when a child is on the road, a driver will slow down more compared to when there is just a sign.	
Summary Statement I tested the speed of cars with the presence of two different signs and a child playing on the street.	
Help Received Dad helped by telling me when to start timing using a walkie-talkie while I was at the end of the four hundred feet; mom helped with excel graphs.	