



## A playground in the making

Four-year-olds Joshua Franklin, Arlo Mallory and Max Pearsall (from left) supervise Hap Relling as he pours concrete where new playground equipment will go at the Amazon child care facility.

Photo by Andre Ranieri

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## Caprice causing cop complaints

DETROIT (AP) — Police officers are heading for remedial drivers' education to learn how to handle new cars with anti-lock brakes, heralded as a safety device.

Responding to complaints, Chevrolet is sending videotapes to police departments describing anti-lock brake systems, or ABS, found on 1991 Chevrolet Caprice police cars, said Ralph Kramer, spokesman for General Motors Corp.'s Chevrolet Division.

The company also will include a "heavy dose of discussion and demonstration of what ABS is all about" at dealer meetings within two months, Kramer said Monday.

Chevrolet acted after the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police

released a study showing police departments doubted the reliability of Caprice brake systems.

A third of 100 police departments responding reported brake failure or poor handling, said Leo Blackwell, an attorney for the police officers.

But Kramer said the officers may not understand how Caprice ABS brakes work. The general public, driving more new cars than ever equipped with ABS, hasn't complained of operating problems, GM officials said.

Problems may be surfacing first in police departments because they push cars harder than other drivers. Chevrolet has heard no complaints from taxi fleets, another big class of

Caprice buyers, Kramer said.

The Caprice is the only full-size car offered with a police package, which usually includes a beefed-up suspension, bigger engine and other features. Ford Motor Co. plans to offer a police package on its 1993 versions of the Ford Crown Victoria.

ABS is designed to automatically pump a car's brakes when sensors detect a wheel is about to lock up, which could cause the tire to skid.

Results of ABS use include shorter braking distances on dry, wet or icy roads and the ability to steer the car while "standing on" the brakes.

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