

Police expanding their search for missing Westerleigh girl, 12,

ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Police are searching for a 12-year-old Westerleigh girl suffering from Down's syndrome who has been missing from her neighborhood since 2 p.m. yesterday.

An expanded search is continuing today for Jennifer Schweiger of Wardwell Avenue, who was last seen walking on Jewett Avenue, toward Victory Boulevard, about a block from her home, police said.

The girl is described as white, 4 feet, 3 inches, weighing 65 pounds and missing her bottom front

teeth. She was wearing a pink Sesame Street T-shirt and pastel-colored shorts and carrying a yellow pocketbook. The girl has hazel eyes and brown hair.

Sgt. Joseph Monahan and Police Officer Kevin Cunningham were called to the girl's house at 5:20 p.m., and 10 minutes later established a temporary headquarters in front of the home. After calling additional police units, including the canine unit, they began searching the neighborhood, including parks and shopping centers.

By 8:30 p.m., auxiliary police joined the search, as well as many concerned neighbors and a voluntary group called Child Watch. The temporary headquarters were open all night, but the search was called off when it became dark, police said.

Police said they will canvass the neighborhood today and interview residents. New York State Troopers were enroute this morning, bringing a bloodhound to help find Jennifer.

Anyone who has seen the girl or may have additional information



Jennifer Schweiger

is asked to call the detectives of the Crimes Against Property Squad at 390-8154.