

It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age. Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction. To what extent do you agree or disagree? What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behavior to children?

As we all know, it is imperative that children form the ability to distinguish acceptable and unacceptable behaviors from early childhood, with some suggesting that punishment contributes to their learning. I, personally, quite disagree with the above viewpoint for a number of reasons.

Generally, the whole point of punishment is in order to reduce the frequency of an unwanted behavior. However, in reality, rarely does punishment results in prevention of an inappropriate behavior, if it does not encourage it. Punishment, specifically corporal punishment such as spanking and smacking, often brings about a sense of fear in children. The Fear of being physically or emotionally hurt, of their privileges being withdrawn, or of being grounded. This might prevent the children from their wrongdoings temporary, yet never provides them with reasons of why such behavior is against the norms of a society. Consequently, not only does punishment not eliminate the immoral behavior in children, but also they might become persistent in behaving so. Moreover, corporal forms of punishment teaches our children that it is right to inflict pain in others, which most probably turns them into aggressive and bully individuals in the future. Therefore, would it not be more rational to replace punishing our offspring with disciplining them?

Disciplining takes place in a number of ways. One way to do so is for parents to attempt to provide good examples in their behavior. The family is the first environment in which the children form their intellectual abilities and main personalities which stick with them for the rest of their lives. Going through early stages of life, children tend to imitate adults' behaviors superbly. Keeping that in mind, is it possible for a child to learn honesty provided that his or her caregivers are perfect liars? Another way to deter children from poorly behaving is to inform them about the detrimental effects of their wrongdoings on themselves and others. A young child has so open a mind that enables them to understand anything perfectly easy. Consequently, hardly ever do parents need to use punitive methods instead of communicating with their kids.

Overall then, parents ought to avoid punishment when it comes to educating youngsters how to distinguish right and wrong, since its demerits would definitely outweigh its merits.