

Early childhood is the bedrock of development of a child's behaviors and mentality through which they can discern right from wrong later in their lives. There are several parenting approaches through which a child can learn how to distinguish between right and wrong; however, from my perspective, corporal punishment is definitely not a pragmatic approach.

Some parents might assume if they use punitive measures as their nurturing strategy, their child would not only not be spoiled, but can also be positively disciplined. On the contrary, there is plenty of evidence suggesting that more effective ways do exist for this very objective. Besides, nowadays physical punishments are not being tolerated in many countries.

Not only does inflicting punishments on a child, particularly those of physical nature such as slapping or spanking, annihilate their ambitions and self-esteem, but it also can pave the way for several future mistreatments and unhealthy repercussions, including violent or anti-social behaviors and growing into a bully.

Psychological studies suggest that practicing strategies such as 'role modelling', 'positive discipline', and 'positive reinforcement' are effective measures to guide a child through adopting a target behavior. Children tend to incorporate their parents' actions into theirs, hence the importance of role modelling. It is parents, in the first place, whom children interact with and learn from. Parents should, therefore, practically show their offspring how to act in either favorable or challenging situations. Positive discipline is a method emphasizing setting limits and being consistent in them. Thus, parents are allowed to define what kind of behaviors are tolerated and what are not. By the same token, positive reinforcement employs a 'positive reinforcer', that is to say a reward, with the aim of encouraging a decent behavior. The reinforcer could be either tangible, for instance allowance or toys, or non-tangible, like applause or positive constructive feedbacks.

In conclusion, I would like to take the view that among the diverse strategies that parents are able to adopt, imposing punishment is the least effective way, if effective at all. However, in the case that it is inevitably chosen, the punishment should be a fitting one.