

Answer the question: smacking

Young people discuss whether smacking is child abuse by definition, or a valid way of parents showing loving discipline.

Is it wrong to smack?

I think smacking is wrong. It's not a suitable or effective way of teaching a child right from wrong. Using violence in answer to a problem, especially where children are concerned, just doesn't work. Adults, who are after all meant to be responsible and mature people, shouldn't expose children to any form of brutality. Young people are the voice of tomorrow and they shouldn't be taught that violence is acceptable. The way forward is to talk. Words are much more powerful, effective and meaningful than violence. This is a quote

Sarah Montague, 14, Belfast

I don't think smacking should be banned. It is a form of discipline. If there wasn't smacking a lot more children would be out of control. The government can't choose to control how a parent brings up their child. It's only when smacking turns into abuse that they should be concerned and step in and do something.

Gabriella Gay, 15, London

I think smacking shouldn't be banned because it shows discipline to young children. But it can go too far. Too much smacking can make a violent child who might then grow up to be a violent father or mother. If I had any children I wouldn't smack them. I would probably tap them on the hand.

Leanne Royle, 13, Plymouth

I think smacking should be banned because you could hurt a child quite badly without realising it. An adult smack could be more like a punch to a small child. Children, who have been hit at home as punishment by their parents, are likely to repeat the same behaviour outside and become playground bullies. The government banned corporal punishment in school and is logically trying to take it a step further by banning smacking at home. There are other ways to discipline children and teach them right from wrong without using violence.

Raymond Lawley, 15, Belfast

I believe that parents need to use their discretion. Smacking should be used in extreme cases and should obviously hurt but not scar. When it becomes an excessive outlet of the parent's frustration that is when it becomes abuse. However, some children need that type of discipline in order for it to be effective. Many are opposed to smacking but they're quick to look down on parents who can't control their children. Where some children accept other forms of discipline, smacking shouldn't be ruled out. Think of it as a form of 'tough-love'.

Juliana Lisk, 16, London

Parents who smack should not be surprised when their teenage children turn around and say "I hate you."

Kirsty McClenaghan, 12, Belfast

About the team

The Answer the question panel are members of Children's Express. The column was published as part of [Teen Talk](#), the Children's Express page in [New Nation](#).

1 comment

Stop bullying

I think smacking is wrong it's an unsuitable and ineffective way for teaching a child.
Shanise (age 13) from Bristol, 30 November 2007 12:30

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