

Twelve Reasons for NOT Hitting Children

1. Hitting children sometimes leads to injuries like bruises, welts, subdural hematomas, nerve damage and broken bones.
2. Hitting destroys self-esteem and trust. Cooperative behavior is much more likely to occur when there is a strong loving bond between parent and child.
3. Hitting children transmits a pro-violence attitude. Children who are frequently hit learn to be hitters themselves.
4. Corporal punishment conveys a message that it is acceptable for someone who loves you to hurt you.
5. Hitting a child for misbehavior means that the caretaker loses an important opportunity for teaching a more appropriate behavior.
6. Fear is not an effective way of teaching appropriate behavior. Children who are hit are likely to perform the desired behavior only when the hitter is nearby.
7. Children who are frequently hit often grow up with childhood memories that are full of anger and resentment.
8. Biblical scriptures used to support corporal punishment of children could be used to justify slavery, suppression of women, incest and infanticide. Using the Bible to support corporal punishment of children is a selective use of scriptures to condone secular thinking.
9. Children are often hit for behavior which is not "bad" behavior but rather behavior which is related to needs of children to explore the world, and for needs related to nutrition, exercise, attention and sleep.
10. Children learn best through teaching, discussion and observing adults who model responsible, caring, and self-disciplined behavior.
11. Children learn to avoid certain activities simply to avoid being hit, instead of learning about the moral and social consequences of their actions.
12. Children do not need to be hit in order to be raised successfully.