

# Should smacking ban get backing?

ENGLISH READING  
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

## 1 VOCABULARY

A) Translate the following expressions from the text.

to bring into line	= to discipline	
behind the times	= old fashioned	
to give in	= to surrender	
it never crossed my mind that	= I never thought of	
to cool off	= to calm down	
to get away with murder	= never being punished	
to make up	= to become friends again	

B) Match the words with their meaning.

1 outlawed	a) promised
2 escalate	b) hit (usually softly with your hand)
3 dreadful	c) hit hard
4 vowed	d) get worse
5 childproof	e) out of control
6 slap	f) safe for children to use
7 thump	g) really bad
8 out of hand	h) forbidden, made illegal

C) Find a synonym.

the argument	
the ban	
to whine	
firm	
furious	
to lose one's temper	
to hit	

## 2 SUMMARIES

Write down who says these points: Alice, Claire or both?

a) If you're angry, leave the room to calm down.	Alice
b) I would not smack a child who is ten years old.	
c) Make your home a safe and secure environment for a child.	
d) I worked as a nanny for parents who let their children do too many naughty things.	
e) Give your child a warning before you smack them.	
f) I'm not soft on discipline.	
g) You can't reason with very young children.	
h) A small smack can soon become a hard hit.	
i) A smack defuses the tension.	
j) Don't take your frustration out on a child.	

## 3 DISCUSSION

1. Were you smacked as a child? If so, how did you feel?
2. Who do you agree with, Alice or Claire?
3. Should parents be allowed to smack their children?
4. Should parents be sent to prison if they smack their children, especially if they leave a bruise or a cut?
5. If you had children, what rules and boundaries would you set them?

## 4 ADDITIONAL TASK

You've been asked to take part in a United Nations debate about the rights of children. At the end of the discussion, the UN will draw up a ten-point Children's Charter. In pairs, come up with 10 sentences beginning with:

- *We should teach children to.....*
- *We shouldn't teach children to...*
- *A child has a right to...*
- *A child has a right not to....*