

# POSITIVE PARENTING



Save the Children



POSITIVE PARENTING  
Empowering Families. Changing Lives.

Corporal punishment or the physical and humiliating punishment of children is the most common form of violence experienced by children based on the World Report on Violence against Children and the National Baseline Study on Violence against Children.

According to Philippine Government's National Baseline Study on Violence against Children, 3 out of 5 children experienced any form of violence during childhood, and 60% of these cases happened in the home. The study also showed that almost 3 out of 5 children have also been verbally abused, threatened, and/or abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Parents, caregivers, and teachers can be helped in managing child behavior problems using effective, age-appropriate and non-violent discipline strategies and positive parenting methods like positive encouragement, problem solving, socio-emotional coaching, and developmentally responsive supervision.

**For over a decade now, different child rights organizations push for the legal prohibition of corporal punishment or the physical and humiliating punishment of children, and the promotion of positive and non-violent discipline or POSITIVE PARENTING.**

## How does Positive Parenting Works?

Rather than focusing on mistakes and misbehaviors, positive parenting emphasizes growth and learning by giving responsive care and clear, consistent rules and expectations through open communication with children (Durrant, 2013). It is about guiding them towards understanding why certain behaviors are acceptable while some others are not (Smith et al., 2014).

For infants and very young children who cannot talk and understand adults very well yet, patience will be the key in dealing with misconduct (Durrant, 2013).

For older children, parents must calmly explain why their behavior is wrong by providing cause-and effect reasoning. It is important to emphasize that it is the behavior that the parents dislike, and not the child (Choose to Hug, 2008).

Other techniques include restitution (making up for the misbehavior), positive practice (repeating correct behaviors), and praising good behavior (Smith et al., 2004; Pritchard, 2006).

In highly stressful situations, it is important for parents to manage their emotions first before talking to the child (Choose to Hug, 2008).



## Why Positive Parenting Works?

According to various research and studies, Positive Parenting interventions can be effective across a range of outcomes relevant to child maltreatment, such as child behavior problems, reduction of actual rates of violence against children, improved parenting competence, reduction of parental stress and maternal depression, and couple interaction quality including:

- Better child development and wellbeing
- Better academic performance
- Better family relationship



## Timeline of the Bill

### 2007-2009

- Legal ban on corporal punishment placed on government agenda, and Child's Rights Network agenda
- Bill filed in 14th Congress (2008)
- Bill approved in HOR, 14th Congress (2009)

### 2013-2016

In 2016, three separate bills attempting to prohibit corporal punishment were filed in the Senate (Senate Bill Nos. 1189, 1136, and 1170) which were later consolidated into a substitute bill, SB 1477. At the House of Representatives, House Bill 8239 or The Positive and Non-violent Discipline of Children Act of 2017 was filed.

### 2022

The Positive Parenting Bill was re-filed in the 19th Congress

### 2010-2012

- Bill re-filed in 15th Congress (2010)
- Bill approved in HOR, 15th Congress (2011)
- First Senate public hearing, 15th Congress (2012)

### 2017-2019

In 2018, The Positive Discipline bill has been approved on 3rd and Final Reading in Congress and in the Senate. However, it was vetoed by former President Duterte in 2019.

We have laws in the Philippines that recognize the rights and responsibilities of parents to raise and discipline their children (such as Family Code of 1987, Child and Youth Welfare Code of 1974). However, these laws use terms such as "cruel", "unusual", or "excessive" to describe the severity of the punishment. These vague terms are open to multiple interpretations and this is used as an excuse to get away with abusing children in the name of discipline. (Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, 2017).

## Positive Parenting of Children's Act in the 19th Congress was filed in the HOR and the Senate

### AN ACT PROMOTING POSITIVE PARENTING IN ALL SETTINGS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

#### This Act shall be known as the "Positive Parenting of Children Act".

The State likewise recognizes the vital role of the child and the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. Pursuant thereto, a child has the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, and maltreatment or exploitation as a form of discipline while in the care of parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child. Such treatment or punishment violates the child's rights, human dignity and physical integrity.

Pursuant to the UNCRC, the State recognizes the primary responsibility of parents, or as the case may be legal guardians for the upbringing and development of the child keeping in mind the best interest of the child.

Teaching children to have self-discipline is one of the most important roles of parents and caregivers. Research tells us that physical and humiliating punishment is harmful and does not help in raising them to be productive citizens of our nation.

It is within our power to care for our children, who we consider as blessings in our life. Let us recognize them as human beings worthy of respect and protection. Let us turn away from practices that harm our children and discipline them without violence.

It is time to give our children full protection from violence, including physical and humiliating punishment in all settings, specially at home.

For campaign partnership and collaboration please reach out to Lei Tapang, Campaigns Manager of Save the Children Philippines at lei.tapang@saveethechildren.org

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