

Pro / Con: Spanking

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Los Angeles Times:

When your 3-year-old is throwing a tantrum in the middle of the supermarket or has poured his milk all over the floor, the urge to spank may be overwhelming. If you've ever given in to that urge, you're not alone — research shows that up to 90% of parents spank their children, at least occasionally.

But does it work? And more importantly, is it harmful to kids? Once considered a fairly standard parenting practice, spanking is now opposed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychological Assn. (The pediatricians' statement against the practice includes advice on what parents should do if they strike a child in the heat of the moment: apologize and explain why the spanking occurred.)

Corporal punishment in the home has been banned in 31 countries, including Spain, Israel, Kenya and Costa Rica. No such prohibition exists in the United States, although 32 states have laws forbidding teachers and administrators from striking students.

Read the whole story: [*Los Angeles Times*](#)