

## Discipline

### Who disciplines a child at school?

- The teacher can discipline the child.
- A teacher can ask a counsellor or an administrator to be involved in disciplining a student.
- A police officer (School Liaison Officer) may provide help and information, but does **not** discipline students himself or herself.



## “Discipline at Home and School”

[English]

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# Discipline at Home and School



**Answers to  
Commonly Asked  
Questions**



### What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

- Punishment is about controlling children through fear.
- Discipline is about children learning self control. It helps them learn that there are consequences for their actions, and that they need to think carefully about the decisions they make.
- Effective discipline is **not** about slapping, spanking, hitting, or any other form of physical punishment.

### What are alternatives to physical punishment?

- Give a short timeout (spend time alone) until everyone has had time to calm down. Then take time to discuss and resolve the problem.
- Take away privileges, such as denying a child enjoyable activities.

### What is child abuse?

If you are disciplining a child and the child is physically hurt, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) considers this abuse, and will investigate it.

All adults, including teachers, are required **by law** to report suspected cases of child abuse to the MCFD.

The MCFD has a duty to investigate all reports of suspected child abuse.

If a child is considered not to be safe in the family home, the child may be removed and placed in a temporary foster home.

For more information, go to:  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child\\_protection/](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_protection/)

### What about discipline at school?

- All schools have rules that everyone (students, staff, visitors) must follow.
- If you do not know the rules, find out what they are from your school. If you do not understand the rules, ask someone to explain them to you and your child.
- If students break school rules, there is a consequence.
- If students break serious rules (fighting, bullying, bringing a weapon to school) the consequences are more severe.
- School discipline never involves slapping or hitting a child.

