Positive Parenting

Give your child the best start in life
All parents want the very best for their children. Positive parenting can help by increasing parents’ confidence and improving their relationships with their children. This leaflet tells you about:

- Positive parenting and how it encourages better behaviour
- Why smacking can be harmful to children

*If you fail to prepare, prepare to fail.*

Children are amanat (trust) from Allah. We are required to protect them for the sake of Allah.

It is the responsibility of all parents and carers to nurture and educate their children so that they receive the best start in life.

It is the responsibility of all adults to protect and respect children so that they grow up to feel valued and important.

**Parental love is mercy from Allah**

Prophet Muhammad peace be on him said, "Show mercy to those on earth, and Allah will show mercy to you."

Hazrat Anas (Prophet’s companion) said, "I never saw anyone who was more compassionate towards children than the Messenger of Allah."

*Children are watching their parents all the time. Sometimes even small actions can make BIG and lasting impressions.*

**How parents can encourage their children**

- Provide lots of love and affection from the very start
- Show good behaviour by remaining calm and consistent
- Recognise, praise and reward their children when they have done well
- Talk with their children and listen to their problems
- Involve their children in family decisions
- Take special interest in their children’s lives

*Praise and encouragement are more effective in achieving good behaviour than criticism and punishment.*

**Controlling anger**

It is important for parents to control their anger and frustration.

Prophet Muhammad peace be on him said, "The strong is not the one who overcomes people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."

If occasionally parents do end up shouting or smacking their children, it is better to say sorry. It will help children learn to say sorry too.
What smacking can do to children

- Smacking makes children resentful and angry
- Smacking makes children defiant and challenging
- Smacking makes children feel humiliated and undermines their self-confidence
- Smacking can cause serious injuries to children

‘If smacking works, why do you have to keep on doing it?’ (NSPCC)