



Activity:
The Spanking Case

LISTENING

Part I

In Canada there is a group called “CFCYL”, which is short for “Canadian Foundation of Children, Youth and the Law”. The work of the CFCYL is to protect children and to protect the legal rights of all Canadian children. The CFCYL is against corporal punishment for children. They don’t think adults should use physical force against children – hitting, slapping, spanking and so on. They say if it isn’t OK for an adult to hit another adult, then it shouldn’t be OK for an adult to hit a child. In 1998 they took the Government of Canada to court over a part of Canadian law about using force on children. This small part of the law is called “Section 43” and this is what Section 43 says:

Every schoolteacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using force by way of correction toward a pupil or child, as the case may be, who is under his care, if the force does not exceed what is reasonable under the circumstances.

Of course, this is legal English, but what it means in simple English is that parents, teachers and other caregivers are allowed to use force to correct children and students, but they cannot use too much force. Let me repeat this: parents, teachers and other caregivers are allowed to use force to correct children and students, but they cannot use too much force.

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