

## Activity: The Spanking Case

## WARM-UP

### Reading and Speaking

*“When I came to Canada, someone told me that I cannot touch my children. If my child does something bad I cannot touch him or even say anything to him to punish him, and if I do, the police can take my child from me.”*

Many newcomers hear stories like this. In fact, it is not only newcomers who are confused and unsure about what Canadian law says about hitting children. Many people born in Canada aren't clear about the law either. You are going to learn more about family law by studying an important legal case in Canada.

Here are four expressions that you will need:

<p><b>corporal punishment</b> punishment of people (usually children) by hitting them</p>	<p><b>slap</b> hit with something flat, especially the flat part of the hand</p>
<p><b>spank</b> hit a child with the hand on the bottom several times as a punishment</p>	<p><b>beat</b> hit hard many times</p>

Use each of the four expressions in an example sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

With a partner, read these three short paragraphs. Decide whether each one is true or false. Make your best guess.

1. All forms of corporal punishment for children are illegal in Canada. A parent, teacher or caregiver may never hit, slap, or spank a child for any reason.
2. In Canada, a parent, teacher or caregiver may hit, slap or spank a child in order to stop that child from hurting other children. Any other form of corporal punishment is illegal.
3. Many people think that it is illegal to hit, slap or spank children in Canada, but that's not true. In fact, the law says nothing about corporal punishment for children.