

IS IT DISCIPLINE OR ABUSE?: THE VICKIE QUAKE SHOW



60 MINUTES

Review (10 minutes)

The Vickie Quake Show (40 minutes)

Summary (10 minutes)

OUTCOMES

As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate between effective discipline and child abuse.
- Identify ways to prevent child abuse.
- Explain when the law will prevent parents from punishing according to their traditions.
- Practice communication skills.

HANDOUTS

1. Laws to Know: Child Abuse and Neglect
2. Vickie Quake (one copy)
3. Robert and Traci Johnson (two-three copies)
4. Ellie Expert (two copies)
5. Mr./Ms. P. (two-three copies)
6. Lonnie Lawyer (two copies)
7. Where to Go for More Information
8. Reflections

RESOURCE PEOPLE

Ask an attorney or a child development or parenting expert to help with lesson. The resource person may be a guest on the Vickie Quake Show. It is important to have someone who is an expert on discipline to help debrief the talk show. Review that material behind the blue tab – *Pals and Community Resource People* – to help prepare for the visit. Send a copy of the lesson when confirming the date and location of the class.

PREPARING TO TEACH

- Copy **Handouts**.
- Post the session outcomes.
- Before class, assign roles for the Vickie Quake Show, help participants prepare for their roles, and distribute relevant handouts.
- Locate a fake microphone and create an applause sign.
- Teach this lesson in conjuncture with a lesson on effective discipline. Collect information on discipline to distribute.
- Have an attorney adapt the generic laws to reflect local laws and procedures. A list of the questions that need to be answered for the adaptations is located at the end of the lesson and on the CD-ROM in the back cover of the manual.
- Add any local community resource information to **Handout 7, Where to Go For More Information**. A file of the handout is on the CD-ROM located in the back cover of the manual.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This lesson should be taught in conjunction with a lesson on effective discipline. This is especially important because in this talk show format, participants tend to applaud jokingly the actions of the P. family who advocate harsh physical punishment. Make sure to save time to debrief this lesson to clarify effective and appropriate forms of discipline.

This lesson also teaches how the law recognizes the importance of different cultural practices in the raising of a family. However, while the law protects different cultural practices, the law will not protect those practices if they constitute abuse or neglect. The country from where the P. family is from is not named in order not to stereotype the punishment practices of any particular country. However, it is important that participants do not view all “foreigners” as people who abuse their children. Make sure this is clarified in the lesson summary.

Teaching about child abuse and neglect is a difficult topic for any teacher. This is particularly the case when it is likely that some of your participants may have had personal experience with child abuse and neglect and the child welfare system. We suggest that you tell participants upfront any reporting obligations you have and discuss the reasons behind these laws. Additionally, be prepared to have resource people (e.g., a school counselor, a therapist) for participants if they need professional help to deal with the ramifications of abuse and neglect.

REMINDER

Tell participants up front that you are not a lawyer and *cannot* give legal advice. Focus on teaching the general legal concepts, developing life skills, and directing participants to community and legal resources in the event they have a specific need.

WEB RESOURCES

Child Abuse and Neglect: The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>) provides state-specific information, including reporting laws (<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/general/statespecific/index.cfm>). The Pew Commission for Children in Foster Care has a helpful chart of the child abuse/neglect system and other good information in the resources section of: www.pewfostercare.org. Prevent Child Abuse America has helpful information at www.preventchildabuse.org.

Parenting Tips: The Child Welfare League of America has information on “positive parenting” at <http://www.cwla.org/parenting/default.htm>

WHAT THE ICONS MEAN



Have the RESOURCE PEOPLE help you with this part of the lesson.



Adapt law, procedure, and/or community resources for your area.

REVIEW (10 MINUTES)

1

Ask participants to define “abuse” and “neglect.” Review what happens to a parent or caretaker who is found guilty of abusing or neglecting his or her children. Distribute **Handout 1, Laws to Know: Child Abuse and Neglect**, if you have not done so in a previous class.

LAWS TO KNOW: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Any recent act or failure on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in serious physical or emotional harm, death, or sexual abuse or exploitation of a person under 18. This also includes an act or failure to act that puts a child at risk of serious harm.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Non-accidental physical injury caused by shaking, slapping, punching, kicking, biting, or burning.

EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

Continuous and severe verbal put-downs or actions that cause mental harm to a child.

SEXUAL ABUSE

An act where a child is inappropriately touched, raped, subjected to sexual harm, or exploited for prostitution or child pornography.

NEGLECT

Failure of caretakers to provide for a child's basic needs. Neglect may be intentional or unintentional. Neglect includes failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care, supervision, protection or education. Neglect also includes situations where there is an immediate threat of harm to the child's health or welfare.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT LAW

If a child is abused or neglected by her or his parents, guardian, or caretaker, the family court judge will take actions to protect the child. Judges will order actions that are in the “best interests” of the child and make reasonable efforts to help families stay together.

2

Instruct participants to define “discipline.” Discipline is:

- Teaching children to behave in an acceptable way.
- Helping children get along with others.
- Not too harsh or strict.



TIP: Locate and distribute a good handout or brochure on helping parents discipline effectively. See “Web Resources” section for help locating material.

THE VICKIE QUAKE SHOW (40 MINUTES)

1

Set up class in a talk show format. Bring chairs to the front for the four-six guests.

2

Inform the class that the Vickie Quake Show will be filming a segment in class. The talk show will be on the issue of effective parental discipline. Tell the class that several guests will be discussing their ideas of proper parental discipline. The guests are as follows:

- Robert and Traci Johnson, married parents of two children, who want to get advice on appropriate parental discipline.
- Mr. P. and/or Mrs. P., a parent(s), who believes that in order to teach children a lesson, they should be punished by harsh physical means.
- Ellie Expert, a child development specialist, who is against any form of physical discipline, even spanking.
- Lonnie Lawyer, a family law specialist, who is here to talk about the law.



TIP: The resource person could play either the role of Lonnie Lawyer or Ellie Expert.

3

Assign roles (or remind participants of their roles if you were able to assign roles ahead of time.) Distribute **Handout 2, Vickie Quake, Handout 3, Robert and Traci Johnson, Handout 4, Ellie Expert, Handout 5, Mr./Ms. P. and Handout 6, Lonnie Lawyer** to only those participants playing those roles. The participant playing the role of Vickie Quake should also get **Handouts 3-6**.



Circulate with the resource person to help panelists prepare for the talk show if they have not prepared beforehand

NOTE: Because of space issues, the handouts are contained at the end of the lesson instead of the usual format of embedding them within the lesson.

4

Explain to the class that those who are not on the panel will be the audience for the Vickie Quake Show. The audience should participate by asking questions and applauding wildly when the “Applause” sign is shown. Give a participant the job of holding the applause sign to get the audience psyched up.

5

While the panel is preparing, have the rest of the class think about and write down any questions they have about effective or ineffective parenting actions and/or child abuse. Each participant should try to have at least two questions prepared for the guests on the Vickie Quake Show. Remind participants to refer to **Handout 1, Laws to Know: Child Abuse and Neglect** in order to prepare their questions.



TIP: Depending on the class size, you may want to divide the class into four groups. Each group will be responsible for preparing questions for one of the panelists (Robert and Traci Johnson, Ellie Expert, Mr./Ms. P., or Lonnie Lawyer). Distribute the appropriate handout to each of the groups. The groups should ensure that their questions address the important facts in the panelist's statement.

6

After the panel is ready, begin the talk show by introducing Vickie Quake and having the participant wave the applause sign.

The participant playing the role of Vickie Quake should do the following:

- Read introduction from **Handout 2, Vickie Quake**.
- Introduce each guest and ask why they are here.
- Give every guest an opportunity to express his or her viewpoints.
- Have audience members ask questions at appropriate times.

7

Monitor and help the participant playing the role of Vickie Quake to draw out the important information from each guest. Encourage the audience members to ask the panelists questions. Help the participant playing the role of Vickie Quake by using some of the following questions contained in **Handout 2** and others to obtain relevant information from the guests.

Handout 2**Vicki Quake****i. For Robert and Traci**

- a. Why are you here?
- b. Tell us about Gloria and Michael.
- c. How have you disciplined Gloria and Michael in the past?
- d. Any special concerns you have about disciplining Michael? Gloria?

ii. For Ellie Expert

- a. Why are you here?
- b. What in your background makes you an expert?
- c. Why is disciplining a child important?
- d. What are some of the characteristics of appropriate discipline?
- e. How can parents and children improve communication?
- f. Why do you consider it bad to use physical punishment on a child? What about shaking a child?
- g. How can a parent properly discipline a child?
- h. What advice would you give Robert and Traci?

iii. For Mr. or Ms. P.

- a. Why are you here?
- b. What is your belief about disciplining a child?
- c. What is considered appropriate discipline in your country?
- d. How were you raised?

- e. What happened to your son?
 - f. What is happening to you in a week?
 - g. What advice would you give Robert and Traci?
- iv. For Lonnie Lawyer**
- a. Why are you here?
 - b. Tell us the facts of the *Dumpson* case.
 - c. Did the court consider the actions of the parent in the *Dumpson* case to be abuse?
 - d. Do Mr./Ms. P.'s actions fall within the definition of abuse?
 - e. What standard does a judge use?
 - f. What advice would you give Robert and Traci?

8

Continue the show for about 20 minutes or so. Wrap up the show by asking Ellie Expert and Lonnie Lawyer to give Robert, Traci and Mr./Ms. P. advice on effective discipline. Thank guests for participating.

To close the show, make sure that the following points are uncovered during the talk show:

- Shaking an infant can lead to serious brain damage or death.
- Communicating with a child begins even before the child can talk.
- Abusing a child takes many forms (review earlier definitions of abuse).
- Comparing the *Dumpson* case to Mr. P.'s situation and making it clear that what the P.'s are doing is child abuse even if it was accepted and traditional discipline in their country of origin. Disciplining a child by excessive physical means is never appropriate and constitutes abuse. The actions of the P.'s go beyond spanking. People have different views on whether spanking is appropriate. Some people believe it is never appropriate; others believe it is appropriate only in emergency situations; and others believe it is an important part of disciplining a child. A slap across a child's buttocks is usually not considered child abuse under the law – however, excessive spanking could rise to the level of child abuse or if the parent spanks with a stick or belt. Bottom-line is that parents do not want to have their children taken away from them so it is best to avoid creating a situation where there is a question whether the parenting actions constitute abuse or not.
- Advising Traci, Robert and Mr./Ms. P. on disciplining effectively.



What is physical abuse in your state? Is spanking mentioned in your state's child abuse laws?

9

Have the resource person comment on what is effective discipline to dispel any faulty advice given by talk show participants. Sample guidelines include discipline that:

- is fair,
- makes sense to a child,
- teaches, and
- a parent gives out in a calm manner.

10

Have the resource person lead a discussion on whether the law should allow people to discipline their children based on their traditional practices. Use the following questions as prompts:

- Should the law protect the right of people to discipline children based on their traditional practices? Why or why not? Up until what point?
- The First Amendment gives people freedom of religion. Should parents be allowed to do whatever they want to their children based on their religion? Why or why not?
- How would you help people who are new to this country understand their new rights and responsibilities as parents?
- What does the law say about a parent's rights to discipline their children?
A parent has many choices in deciding how to discipline his or her children. However, the parent cannot choose discipline that becomes child abuse or neglect. For example, a parent cannot fiercely swat a child on the face with a stick even if it part of a religious tradition. While the law respects people's cultures and religions, it draws the line at protecting children.

11

Discuss the experience of being on a talk show by using the following questions:

- Do talk shows foster good communication? Why or why not?
- Most talk shows do not foster good communication. Instead they encourage people to act-up by screaming, throwing chairs, cussing, etc. This is because talk shows are there to entertain people not to discuss important issues. There are some respected talk-type shows that do foster serious reflection and discussion of issues.
- Who are the audience members likely to support on a talk show?
- In many talk shows, the audience members are likely to support the person who has the most outrageous point of view or acts-up the most – not the person who is informative.

SUMMARY (10 MINUTES)

1

Inquire if participants can give an example of a permissible form of parental discipline.

2

Ask participants to give an example of where discipline becomes abuse. See if they can create a standard that reflects when discipline becomes abuse.

3

Question participants about some things that parents can do and should know in order to prevent abuse from happening in their homes.

4

Invite participants to explain what they would do if they knew someone was being abused. Pass out **Handout 7, Where to Go for Information**. Have the resource person discuss.

Handout 7

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reporting Abuse and Neglect: If you suspect a child is being abused or you are being abused, you can call the local Department of Child Protection. You may also wish to call the police.

Getting Help for Abuse and Neglect: Most communities have organizations and people who can help you if you are being abused. You may wish to talk with a school counselor, a minister, a friend, a psychologist, or a lawyer. Some professionals, such as teachers and doctors, are required to report to Child Protective Services or the police if the professional suspects a child is being abused.

You can contact the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect at 1-800-FYI-3366 to get a list of helpful community organizations in your state. You can also call national crisis intervention hotlines on child abuse and family violence directly, ChildHelp USA at 1-800-422-4453 and the Youth Crisis Hotline at 1-800-448-4663. For more local information, call a local crisis hotline, a shelter, or an organization that helps children.

Learning about Effective Discipline: Most schools and communities have parenting classes that teach parents effective ways to discipline their children. Contact your local Women Infants and Children Program, your local Headstart, or your school.

5

Distribute **Handout 8, Reflections**. Encourage participants to complete.

Handout 8**REFLECTIONS****The Vickie Quake Show**

Name: _____ Date: _____

List five things that a parent does to prevent abuse from happening in the home:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What long-term effect do you think child abuse has on a person? Describe.

If your friend were a victim of child abuse, what advice would you offer?

Handout 1

LAWS TO KNOW: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

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ABUSE AND NEGLECT LAW

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Hoja 1

MALTRATO Y ABANDONO DE MENORES: DEFINICIONES Y LEYES

MALTRATO DE MENORES

Un acto reciente causado por el padre, la madre, la niñera o un familiar que resulta en un daño físico, sexual, psicológico o emocional al niño o a la niña. Esto incluye acciones que amenazan causar graves daños a un niño o una niña.

MALTRATO FÍSICO

Daño físico y/o lesión causado por golpes, quemaduras y otras formas de daño físico.

MALTRATO EMOCIONAL O PSICOLÓGICO

Insultos o denigraciones verbales continuas u otras acciones que humillan y/o denigran a un niño o una niña.

ABUSO SEXUAL

Un acto en que un niño (o una niña) está tocado/a, violado/a o sometido/a a daño sexual o explotado/a para la prostitución o la pornografía. Usar un niño o una niña para su propia gratificación sexual.

ABANDONO DE HIJOS

Por lo general, el abandono contempla situaciones en las que los padres o tutores no hacen cosas que deben hacer. La omisión puede ser intencional o involuntaria. El abandono incluye no proveer adecuadamente alimentos, cobijo, ropa, atención médica, supervisión, o educación a un niño por el cual uno es responsable. El abandono también incluye situaciones en las que existe una amenaza inmediata de daño a la salud o bienestar del niño o la niña.

LEYES SOBRE EL MALTRATO DE MENORES Y EL ABANDONO DE HIJOS

Cualquier persona que maltrate o abandone a cualquier niño menor de 18 años de edad será culpable de violar esta ley. El juzgado familia tomará medidas para proteger la salud y el bienestar del niño. El juzgado también hace esfuerzo a mantener la unidad de la familia.

Handout 2

VICKIE QUAKE

(page 1 of 2)

1. Your job is to make the show as fair as possible. You need to make sure that:

- Everyone has an opportunity to express his or her viewpoints.
- Guests do not interrupt each other.
- Audience members ask questions when you call on them.

Please read the handouts about your guests (Handouts 3, 4, 5, and 6) so that you will know about them.

2. After you are introduced and the applause dies down, please introduce the show by saying:

Ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to my show, the Vickie Quake show. I am your beautiful host, Vickie Quake.

Today we are talking about an extremely important topic that is a national shame - the abuse of children, not by strangers, but by parents. The statistics are startling:

- *3 children die each day from abuse or neglect*
- *Every 10 seconds a child is reported abused or neglected*

Today we will be focusing on situations we all face as parents — how to respond when children act up. What is appropriate discipline? Is a slap ok? Is yelling at children in public ok? What about telling your child to go to bed without dinner? When does discipline become abuse?

Welcome to my wonderful show where we will explore this important topic. Let's meet our first guest..

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Hoja 2

VICKIE QUAKE

(página 1 de 2)

1. Es su trabajo de asegurar que la exposición sea tan justa como posible. Usted necesita asegurar que:
 - Todos tienen una oportunidad de expresar sus puntos de vista.
 - Los invitados no interrumpen uno al otro.
 - Los espectadores hacen preguntas cuando usted los dirige.

Por favor, lea las distribuciones acerca de sus invitados (Hojas 3, 4, 5, y 6) para que usted los sepa.

2. Después que usted ha sido introducido y el aplauso ha parado, introduce la exposición diciendo:

Bienvenido a mi exposición, la Exposición de Vickie Quake. Soy su anfitriona hermosa, Vickie Quake.

Hoy discutimos un tema muy importante que es una vergüenza nacional - el abuso de niños, no por los extranjeros, pero por los padres. La estadística asusta:

- *Cada día, 3 niños mueren del abuso o del abandono*
- *Cada 10 segundos, un niño es informado como abusado o descuidado*

Hoy enfocaremos en las situaciones que todos confrontamos como padres — cómo responder cuándo niños actúan arriba. ¿Qué es la disciplina apropiada? ¿Una bofetada está bien? ¿Está bien vociferar a sus niños en público? ¿Qué tal mandar a su niño a la cama sin la cena? ¿Cuándo llega a ser la disciplina el abuso?

Bienvenido a mi exposición maravillosa donde exploraremos este tema importante. Encontremos nuestro primer invitado...

Handout 2

VICKIE QUAKE

(page 2 of 2)

i. For Robert and Traci

- a. Why are you here?
- b. Tell us about Gloria and Michael.
- c. How have you disciplined Gloria and Michael in the past?
- d. Any special concerns you have about disciplining Michael? Gloria?

ii. For Ellie Expert

- a. Why are you here?
- b. What in your background makes you an expert?
- c. Why is disciplining a child important?
- d. What are some characteristics of appropriate discipline?
- e. How can parents and children improve communication?
- f. Why do you consider it bad to use physical punishment on a child?
What about shaking a child?
- g. How can a parent properly discipline a child?
- h. What advice would you give Robert and Traci?

iii. For Mr. or Ms. P.

- a. Why are you here?
- b. What is your belief about disciplining a child?
- c. What is considered appropriate discipline in your country?
- d. How were you raised?
- e. What happened to your son?
- f. What is happening to you in a week?
- g. What advice would you give Robert and Traci?

iv. For Lonnie Lawyer

- a. Why are you here?
- b. Tell us the facts of the *Dumpson* case.
- c. Did the court consider the actions of the parent in the *Dumpson* case to be abuse?
- d. Do Mr./Ms. P.'s actions fall within the definition of abuse?
- e. What standard does a judge use?
- f. What advice would you give Robert and Traci?

Hoja 2**VICKIE QUAKE****(página 2 de 2)**

Notas sobre los invitados:

- Robert y Traci Johnson, padres de dos hijos, buscan consejos
- El Sr./a. P., padre (o madre) de familia, cree que el uso de fuerza física para darles una lección a sus hijos es apropiado.

- Ellie Experta, especialista en desarrollo infantil, se opone a toda forma de disciplina física, incluso las nalgadas.
- Lonnie Licenciada, abogada de derecho de familia, está aquí para hablarnos sobre la ley.

Preguntas sugeridas para los invitados:

i. Para Robert y Traci

- a. ¿Por qué están aquí?
- b. Cuéntenos sobre Gloria y Michael
- c. ¿Cómo han disciplinado a Gloria y Michael?
- d. ¿Tienen alguna preocupación especial en cuanto a la disciplina de Michael? ¿Y Gloria?

ii. Para Ellie Experta

- a. ¿Por qué está aquí?
- b. ¿Cuál es su preparación como experta en este asunto?
- c. ¿Por qué es importante disciplinar a un niño?
- d. ¿Cuáles son las características de la disciplina apropiada?
- e. ¿Cómo se puede mejorar la comunicación entre padres e hijos?
- f. ¿Por qué es que no se debe castigar a los niños físicamente?
¿Y sacudir a un niño?
- g. ¿Cómo puede un padre/madre disciplinar apropiadamente a un niño?
- h. ¿Qué consejos le brindaría a Robert y Traci?

iii. Para el Sr. o la Sra. P.

- a. ¿Por qué está aquí?
- b. ¿Cuál es su opinión acerca de la disciplina de niños?
- c. ¿Qué se considera disciplina apropiada en su país de procedencia?
- d. ¿Cómo lo criaron a usted?
- e. ¿Qué le pasó a su hijo?
- f. ¿Qué le va a pasar a Usted en una semana?
- g. ¿Qué consejos le brindaría a Robert y Traci?

iv. Para Lonnie Licenciada

- a. ¿Por qué está aquí?
- b. Cuéntenos los hechos del caso *Dumpson*.
- c. ¿El tribunal determinó que las acciones de los padres en el caso de *Dumpson* eran maltrato de menores?
- d. ¿Se definirían las acciones de Sr./Sra. P. como abusos?
- e. ¿Qué consejos le brindaría a Robert y Traci?

Handout 3

ROBERT AND TRACI JOHNSON

You are the married parents of two children: Gloria (age 10 months) and Michael (age 2 years). Michael and Gloria are basically pretty well behaved but there are times when they drive you crazy. You are on the Vickie Quake Show to get answers to two questions.

1. Is it ever appropriate to hit a child?

Michael, just like all the other children you know his age, is a "terrible two." He says "no" all the time. He always wants to get his own way, but he is also very loving. He loves to be hugged and read to. Sometimes you lose patience with him. When he makes you really angry, you spank him. Once Robert slapped him across the face when he threw a temper tantrum in the grocery store. You feel guilty about this.

2. How can you discipline a child who cannot talk?

Gloria is no longer in a fussy phase. For a month solid, she cried all the time because she had an ear infection. Traci wanted to shake her to get her to stop but you learned in a parenting class that shaking a baby can lead to death or cause brain damage [be sure to mention this fact to the TV audience].

Hoja 3

ROBERT Y TRACI JOHNSON

Ustedes son los padres casados de dos niños: Gloria (de 10 meses) y Michael (de 2 años). Por lo general, Michael y Gloria se portan bastante bien, pero a veces los vuelven locos. Ustedes están participando en el Show de Vickie Quake para encontrar las respuestas de dos preguntas.

1. ¿Es apropiado pegarle a un niño en algún momento?

Michael, al igual que todos los niños que conocen de su edad, se encuentra en esa etapa difícil de los dos años. Dice que no todo el tiempo. Siempre quiere salirse con la suyas, pero también es muy cariñoso. Le encanta que lo abracen y que le lean cuentos. A Michael se le hace difícil escucharlos y a veces pierden la paciencia con él. Cuando se enojan mucho con el, ustedes le dan nalgadas. Una vez Robert lo abofeteó a través de la cara cuando él tiró una rabieta del genio en la abarrotería. Esto les remuerde la conciencia.

2. ¿Como se puede disciplinar a un niño que todavía no sabe hablar?

Gloria ya no está en una etapa tan inquieta. Por un mes entero no dejó de llorar porque tenía una infección de oído. Traci quería sacudirla para que parara de llorar pero habían aprendido en sus clases de padres que las sacudidas violentas pueden causar daño cerebral y hasta la muerte. [Asegúrense de mencionar este hecho al público.]

Handout 4

ELLIE EXPERT

You are an expert on child discipline. Your job is to make sure that you teach the audience the difference between appropriate discipline and abuse.

You have a Ph.D in child development. For the last ten years, you have been training teachers from across the country on how to teach teen parents appropriate methods for disciplining their children.

Here are some of the things you learned in school and from taking the nationally certified course on parenting and "appropriate" discipline:

Discipline is important because it:

- helps a child learn what is right and wrong,
- sets appropriate limits,
- helps a child behave in a socially acceptable way, and
- helps a child know what to expect.

Discipline should not be too harsh or too strict.

Discipline that works must be:

- fair,
- understandable to a child, and
- given out in a calm manner.

Discipline is not:

- physical punishment such as slapping, belting or shaking (**do not shake babies because this can lead to death**)
- emotional abuse such as "You are no good" or "I wish that I never had you."

If parents discipline appropriately, children will not behave badly as often.

Hoja 4

ELLIE EXPERTA

Usted es especialista sobre la disciplina de niños. Su tarea es instruir al público sobre la diferencia entre la disciplina apropiada y el maltrato.

Usted tiene un doctorado en desarrollo infantil. Por los últimos 10 años, has trabajado capacitando a maestros de todo el país cómo enseñarles a padres adolescentes sobre métodos apropiados para disciplinar sus niños. Estos son algunas de las cosas importantes que aprendió en sus estudios y en un curso de certificación nacional sobre la crianza de niños y la disciplina "apropiada":

La disciplina es importante porque:

- le enseña al niño a distinguir entre el bien y el mal,
- fija límites apropiados,
- le ayuda al niño a comportarse de una forma aceptable socialmente
- le ayuda al niño a saber qué se espera de ellos.

La disciplina no debe ser demasiada dura ni estricta.

La disciplina efectiva debe ser:

- justo
- entendible a un niño (el niño debe saber qué hizo para provocar el castigo y por qué lo están castigando)
- repartida en una manera calma.

La disciplina no debe ser:

- castigos físicos tales como cachetadas, correazos o sacudidas (**nunca sacuda a un bebé. Puede causar la muerte**).
- maltrato emocional como por ejemplo, decirle al niño "no sirves para nada" o "ojala que no hubieras nacido".

Si los padres disciplinan a sus niños en forma apropiada, no se portarán mal tan a menudo.

Handout 5

MR. P. AND/OR MS. P.

You think that you should be allowed to discipline your child as you see fit even if it amounts to harsh physical punishment. After all, you are the parent. In your native country, parents discipline their children by hitting them with a stick. This is the way children learn. You were raised that way and you turned out just fine. The problem with kids in the U.S. is that they do not respect their elders.

Seven-year-old Donny P. is your child. Donny received five D's on his report card. His teacher wrote that Donny is a constant source of disruption in the classroom. After reading the report card and comments, you struck Donny on his hands and buttocks repeatedly with a 1-inch wide leather belt. It hurts you to do it but Donny needs to be taught a lesson. In your country, this type of punishment is considered necessary and appropriate.

A teacher notices that Donny had bruises and reports it to Child Protective Services. Child Protective Services investigated and filed a petition with the court, alleging that Donny was an abused child.

You're going to court in a week for a child abuse hearing.

You'd like to get the audience's opinion on whether what you did to Donny was abuse.

Hoja 5

SEÑOR P. Y/O SEÑORA P.

Usted piensa que se le debe permitir disciplinar a su hijo o hija como a usted se la parezca, aún si es con castigos físicos severos. Al fin al cabo, usted es el padre (o la madre). En su país de origen, los padres disciplinan a sus hijos golpeándolos con un palo. Así es que los niños aprenden. A usted lo criaron así y usted resultó de lo más bien. El problema con niños en los EE.UU. es que ellos no respetan sus ancianos.

Su hijo, Donny P., tiene siete años. Donny sacó cinco Ds en sus notas de escuela. Su maestra escribió que Donny interrumpe la clase constantemente. Después de leer sus notas y los comentarios, usted golpeó a Donny repetidamente en sus manos y sus nalgas con una correa de cuero de una pulgada de ancho. Le dolió hacerlo, pero Donny tenía que aprender su lección. En su país, este tipo de castigo se considera necesario y apropiado.

Una maestra se percató de que Donny tenía moretones en las manos y se le informó a la Agencia de Protección de Menores. Esta agencia investigó el caso y radicó una petición contra usted en el tribunal, alegando que Donny era un niño abusado.

Usted comparecerá ante el juez dentro de una semana para una vista de abuso de menores.

Usted quisiera saber si el público opina si lo que usted le hizo a Donny fue maltrato o no.

Handout 6

LONNIE LAWYER

You are the best family law attorney in the U.S. You know all the laws and cases relating to abuse. You need to help the guests decide whether their discipline practices are abuse or not. You have done some research to prepare for the Vickie Quake Show:

The following case and legal information will help you on the talk show:

1) *Dumpson v. Daniel M.*

Facts: Mr. M. was attending a school conference to discuss the bad behavior of his child. The child was present during the discussion. In front of the assistant principal, Mr. M. began striking his child with his fists, whipping him with a belt, and kicking the child.

Position of Parent: Mr. M. claimed that he was permitted under law to punish his son in any matter he saw fit. In his native country it was expected that parents should physically punish their children when they misbehaved in school.

Decision of the Court: The court held that Mr. M. 's actions constituted child abuse under the law. While the court recognized cultural differences present in this case, it had to apply the law equally to all people. The court reasoned that the punishment was excessive. It ruled that the child could stay at home if Mr. M. attended parenting classes on proper discipline.

Hoja 6

LONNIE LICENCIADA

Usted es la mejor abogada de familia de todos los Estados Unidos. Usted sabe todas las leyes y los casos sobre el maltrato y abuso de menores. Usted tiene que ayudar a los invitados a decidir si sus costumbres disciplinarias constituyen maltrato o no. Usted se ha preparado para el Show de Vickie Quake:

El caso siguiente y la información legal lo ayudarán en el programa de televisión:

1) *Dumpson vs. Daniel M.*

Hechos: El Sr. M estaba reunido con el maestro de su hijo para discutir el mal comportamiento de su hijo. El niño estaba presente en la reunión. Delante del subdirector de la escuela, el Sr. M. comenzó a pegarle al niño con sus puños, a azotarlo con una correa, y darle patadas.

Posición del Padre: El Sr. M. alega que la ley le permite disciplinar a su hijo como mejor le parezca. En su país de origen, era lo esperado que los padres castigaran físicamente a sus hijos si se portaban mal en la escuela.

Decisión del Tribunal: El tribunal determinó que las acciones del Sr. M. equivalían a maltrato de menores según la ley. Aunque el tribunal reconoció las diferencias culturales que influían en este caso, tenía que esforzar la ley a todos por igual. El tribunal determinó que el castigo fue excesivo y dictó que el niño podría permanecer en su casa solamente si el Sr. M. asistiera a clases de padres sobre la disciplina apropiada.

Handout 7

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reporting Abuse and Neglect: If you suspect that a child is being abused or you are being abused, you can call your local Department of Child Protection. You may also wish to call the police.

Getting Help for Abuse and Neglect: Most communities have organizations and people who can help you if you are being abused. You may wish to talk with a school counselor, a minister, a friend, a psychologist, or a lawyer. Some professionals, such as teachers and doctors, are required to report to Child Protective Services or the police if the professional suspects a child is being abused.

You can contact the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect at 1-800-FYI-3366 to get a list of helpful community organizations in your state. You can also call national crisis intervention hotlines on child abuse and family violence directly, ChildHelp USA at 1-800-422-4453 and the Youth Crisis Hotline at 1-800-448-4663. For more local information, call a local crisis hotline, a shelter, or an organization that helps children.

Learning about Effective Discipline: Most schools and communities have parenting classes that teach parents effective ways to discipline their children. Contact your local Women Infants and Children Program, your local Headstart, or your school.

Hoja 7

DÓNDE SE PUEDE OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Para denunciar el maltrato y el abandono de menores: Si usted sospecha que a un niño o una niña lo están maltratando o abusando, o si usted es víctima de lo mismo, puede llamar al Departamento de la Protección de Niños local. Además puede llamar a la policía.

Para adquirir ayuda para víctimas de maltrato o abandono de menores: La mayoría de las comunidades cuentan con organizaciones e individuos que pueden brindarle ayuda si alguien lo/a esta abusando o maltratando. También puede hablar con un consejero de la escuela, un cura, ministro o pastor de iglesia, una amiga o amigo, un psicólogo o un abogado. Algunos profesionales, como por ejemplo, los maestros de escuela y los médicos, están obligados a denunciar a la policía o al Servicio de Protección de Menores casos en los cuales sospechan que un menor esta siendo maltratado o abusado.

Usted puede comunicarse con el Centro nacional de documentación sobre el abuso y abandono de menores (National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect) al 1-800-FYI-3366, para obtener una lista de organizaciones en su comunidad que le pueden ayudar con este tipo de problema. También puede llamar directamente a las líneas calientes nacionales de intervención en crisis de maltrato y abuso de menores y de violencia doméstica: ChildHelp USA, al 1-800-422-4453 y Youth Crisis Hotline al 1-800-448-4663. Para más información al nivel local, llame a una línea caliente local de emergencia, un albergue o refugio, o una organización dedicada a la protección de niños.

Para informarse sobre la disciplina de los niños efectiva: La mayoría de las escuelas y comunidades ofrecen clases de padres para enseñar destrezas de crianza y cómo educar y disciplinar a los hijos de manera efectiva. Comuníquese con el programa local de Women Infants and Children, el programa Head Start o su escuela local.

Handout 8
REFLECTIONS
THE VICKIE QUAKE SHOW

Name: _____ Date: _____

List five things that a parent does to prevent abuse from happening in the home:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What long-term effect do you think child abuse has on a person? Describe.

If your friend were a victim of child abuse, what advice would you offer?

Hoja 8
CONSIDERACIONES
EL PROGRAMA "VICKIE QUAKE"

Nombre: _____ Fecha: _____

Enumere cinco medidas que un padre o una madre puede tomar para prevenir el maltrato en su casa:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

¿Qué efectos a largo plazo piensa que puede sufrir una persona que fue víctima de maltrato en su niñez?

Si un amigo suyo fuera víctima de maltrato de menores, ¿qué consejos le brindaría?

Local Laws & Procedures Addendum
IS IT DISCIPLINE OR ABUSE?: THE
VICKIE QUAKE SHOW



What is physical abuse in your state? Is spanking mentioned in your state's child abuse laws?