

Parents Hand Out Unusual Punishments



What happens when you do something wrong at school? Maybe your teacher hands out a punishment. You might even be sent to the principal's office or given detention. When you get home, will your parents hand out another punishment for doing wrong?

After one 8-year-old Florida boy acted up in class, his mother decided she needed to teach him a lesson. She made him stand on the sidewalk for three hours with a sign that read, "I was rude to my teacher. I can't come to school. I am sorry." The other side of the sign read, "I will make good choices."

The boy's mother said she did not want to embarrass her son. She just wanted to send him a clear message that acting up was not acceptable. "It was a way of getting him back on track," the mother said. "I want him to be successful in life."

NEWS WORD BOX

punishment message
detention behavior
embarrass acceptable

In Oklahoma, another mother was tired of her daughter's low grades in school. She made her daughter stand aside a busy street wearing a sign that said she would try harder to get good grades. The girl said she was embarrassed by the punishment, but it helped her see that she could do better in school.

In California, a 12-year-old girl was suspended from school for bullying. She had to stand outside local schools with signs that read, "I engaged in bullying behavior. I got suspended from school...Don't be like me. Stop bullying."

Some people agree with the way those parents punished their children. They say the kids probably will think more about their behavior in the future. Others say that the punishments were too embarrassing for kids.

MORE FACTS ABOUT UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS

One assistant principal said parents know their children better than teachers. Often parents can pick the punishment they think will work best, she said.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

What do you think about these punishments? Were they fair?
Or was there a better way for parents to get across their messages?