

DA59. Not Misleading or Harming a Child.

We are not to mislead or harm a child.

DA59a: *We are not to mislead a child.*

DA59b: *We are not to harm a child.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 18:5-6

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me; and whoever ensnares one of these little ones who trust me, it would be better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and be drowned in the open sea!

Matthew 18:10

See that you never despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually seeing the face of my Father in heaven.

Mark 9:42

Whoever ensnares one of these little ones who trust me- it would be better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and be thrown in the sea.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, don't irritate your children and make them resentful, or they will become discouraged.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 10:42, 19:14, 25:40

Mark 10:13-16

Luke 9:48, 17:1-2, 18:15-16

1 Timothy 5:8

Ephesians 6:4

James 1:27

Related New Testament Mitzvot

BA41 Welcoming Yeshua by Welcoming Children

CB12 Fathers Not Irritating Their Children

GB27 Welcoming and Caring for Little Children and Those Pure of Spirit

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Exodus 20:13 (murder applied to abortion)

"Do not murder. "Do not commit adultery. "Do not steal. "Do not give false evidence against your neighbor.

Exodus 21:22

If people are fighting with each other and happen to hurt a pregnant woman so badly that her unborn child dies, then, even if no other harm follows, he must be fined. He must pay the amount set by the woman's husband and confirmed by judges.

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your child while there is hope, but don't get so angry that you kill him!

Proverbs 22:15

Doing wrong is firmly tied to the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away from him.

Proverbs 29:15

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame on his mother.

Comment

This *Mitzvah* #59 has both a physical and a spiritual component.

The *Tanakh* supports (even promotes) the pain and humiliation of spanking as a tool (available among others) for correcting our children but not to the extent of harming them. Spanking children to punish them or to dispense justice (e.g. for disobedience) is not addressed in Scripture, and physical pain of any kind must not be applied while a parent is excessively angry or out of control. That is why we recommend caressing our child and expressing love after delivering a spanking.

The *Kitvey B'rit Chadashah* does not address spanking but prohibits harming children by misleading them (ensnaring them in sin). It also warns us against unnecessarily and unreasonably irritating our children and causing them to resent us.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

F5 Treatment of Children