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40 Recommendations for The Muslim Home

Description: An English translation of a very good book by Sheikh Mohammed Salih Al-Munajjid.

than physical punishment, so let parents and caregivers think about this.

(25) "Hang up the whip where the members of the household can see it." (Reported by Abu Na'eem in *al-Hilyah*, 7/332; *al-Silsilat al-Saheehah*, no. 1446).

Hinting at punishment is an effective means of discipline, so the reason for hanging up a whip or stick in the house was explained in another report, where the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Hang up the whip where the members of the household can see it, for this is more effective in disciplining them." (Reported by al-Tabaraani, 10/344-345; *al-Silsilat al-Saheehah*, no. 1447)

Seeing the means of punishment hanging up will make those who have bad intentions refrain from indulging in bad behaviour, lest they get a taste of the punishment. It will motivate them to behave themselves and be good-mannered. Ibn al-Anbaari said: "There is nothing to suggest that it should be used for hitting, because [the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)] did not command anyone to do that. What he meant was: keep on disciplining them." (See *Fayd al-Qadeer* by al-Mannaawi, 4/325).

Hitting is not the way to discipline; it is not to be resorted to, except when all other means are exhausted, or when it is needed to force someone to do obligatory acts of obedience, as Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning): "... *As to those women on whose part you fear ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly, if it is useful)...*" [*al-Nisa' 4:34*] – in that order. There is also the hadeeth: "Order your children to pray when they are seven years old, and hit them if they do not do so when they are ten." (*Sunan Abi*

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