

Discussion:

ink stampers on the back of the hand

Messages 1 - 130 of 130

[Message 1](#) - posted by [alisonlees \(U1472246\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

My son (4) came home (from the nursery class attached to school) with a stamp inked onto his hand 'as a reward', but when I mentioned this to my mother, she thought it was 'abuse' and that it was very bad, because of the chemicals, and what if he had been allergic (which I would have gone ballistic, I suppose, but never thought of it).

What do you think?

[Message 2](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

I don't know about 'abuse'- that's a bit heavy! But I wouldn't be too pleased about it either. My third child has hypersensitive skin, and I'm sure would react badly to something like that...

Since going to nursery, DS2 has had an awful red rash on his cheeks- and in the first couple of weeks he always stank of perfume after being there! I said to the staff and asked if they'd been using a perfumed wipe on his face or something. they completely denied doing any such thing- but he no longer smells of perfume after attending the nursery, so I'm sure there's a link...

He still has the rash though and we can no longer use evn the fragrance free wipes we always used before on his face, without exacerbating the problem!😞

So- I think these places should show more care re. anything they 'administer' to a child in their care. these stamp things are just not necessary, so why take the risk?😞

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[Message 3](#) - posted by [zacsmum \(U2924489\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

seems a strange thing to use as a reward to me..... Don't think I would be too chuffed. Stickers on their clothes are much more acceptable IMO. My LO has sensitive skin too, so this would almost certainly cause a rash in him.

I'd have a wee word with the nursery if you aren't happy, if you don't mind, then ignore it, its pretty harmless I suppose.

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[Message 4](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

This seems an incredibly odd way to reward a child. I'm forever telling my DD to not draw on herself, and although this isn't the same thing, it isn't THAT far removed. What's wrong with stickers, or aren't they cheap enough? I wonder if budgetary issues are connected to this, but I would speak to the nursery. Abuse it aint, but pps are right about the possibility of allergic reactions/sensitive skin.

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[Message 5](#) - posted by [charliemouse \(U2311929\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

hm, abuse is a bit OTT I guess - and I would imagine that any stampers bought for use with small children would be all tested and suitable for children's delicate skin to a certain extent and I would also imagine that the staff there are aware to the same extent as the parents of any allergies - we certainly were at school, as we had to know whether we could put plasters on or not.

However, weird thing to do as a reward and I wouldn't really advocate putting ink stamp pictures on skin for all sorts of reasons. I wonder if it was done as it's probably cheaper than buying stickers and they frequently lose stick from being constantly pulled off and being re-adjusted and then of course get lost...

If it was me, I might be tempted to just pop in and ask why it was done and request politely that any future rewards take a different form, unless your ds has said it hasn't happened before and hasn't happened since or unless you aren't really that bothered about it. If nothing has actually happened to his skin, mightn't be really worth kicking up a fuss, unless the principle bothers you.

What did other parents think?

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[Message 6](#) - posted by [tlc \(U4685777\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

My DS1 (7) and DD (now 6) used to come home from pre-school with stamps on her hand. She has moderately sensitive skin and never had any problems with allergic reaction. I can certainly see your points, BTBH I had never thought of it from this way. I wouldn't class it as 'abuse' though. She used to be over the moon showing these off to me. I know one of her friends has severe skin allergies and I'm not sure what route they went with her. One for me to find out! I will post the mothers response when I know.

T

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[Message 7](#) - posted by [sillyoldbat \(U2086553\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

I think they should use stickers, so many children are sensitive to chemicals in paints and face paints that I think this does not help. I wouldn't call it abuse as such but I think they should not use them.

I'm always telling my 4 yr old not to write on himself and putting ink on children doesn't help. Incidentally stampers are not used in LO's school.

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[Message 8](#) - posted by [FattyCakeShop \(U3460208\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

🤖 0800 11 11 🤖

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[Message 9](#) - posted by [noseyum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

My DS came home a few times with a stamp on the back of his hand. It didn't bother me. It washed off easily.

As has been said, the nursery would know whether the child had allergies, because you have to let them know about them. I think to say it's child abuse is OTT. If *you* are unhappy about it you could mention it to them, but don't just say it because others are kicking up a fuss. You're his Mother and if you are happy that's fine!

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[Message 10](#) - posted by [mummypie \(U2314533\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

The pre-school my DD goes to also use stamps on back of hand as a reward.

She has not had a skin reaction to them at all. I also think 'abuse' is over the top. My DD thinks it is wonderful to be rewarded and she has learnt that it is good to tidy up toys, share toys, not pick up other children, sit still when it is story time. I think it is a great idea.

Now if she came home with a red hand because she had been smacked for being naughty then this I

would consider as abuse.

Just remember the benefits and positive teaching. Your LO is going to have a clear understanding of what is good and hopefully be a better child for it.

mummypie x

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[Message 11](#) - posted by [barnsleycook \(U2188327\)](#), Nov 5, 2006

I thought the usual reward was stickers. It certainly was at both the pre-school nurseries my daughter went to.

At her first nursery I once got a phone call asking me if it was OK to put a sticking plaster on her - they were that strict.

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[Message 12](#) - posted by [jel1976 \(U5307226\)](#), Nov 6, 2006

Im actually shocked, not by the stamp on the hand but the overreaction to it!!!

Yeah some kids may have a sensitivity to it, but then some kids may also have a sensitivity to the soap they use, or the paints, pens etc!

Most kids like having there hand stamped, makes it fun. I also know of activity centres in the town I live stamp the child hand with a different stamp depending on what time they have to leave. I wouldnt have even thought that it was in the slightest bit out of order.

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[Message 13](#) - posted by [mylittlecabbage \(U2985441\)](#), Nov 6, 2006

My two LOVED having their hands stamped with 'rewards' it gave them both such a buzz when rewarded which is what this is all about at the end of the day - praising the good etc ...

When they went to Infant School, the stickers were issued as 'rewards' equally well received by children but not quite so welcome by mum - who used to forget to remove them from clothing before they got to the washing machine ! 🙄🙄🙄

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[Message 14](#) - posted by [barnsleycook \(U2188327\)](#), Nov 6, 2006

but not quite so welcome by mum - who used to forget to remove them from clothing before they got to the washing machine !

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I know exactly what you mean. Sometimes my daughter puts them in her pocket!

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[Message 15](#) - posted by [sars32 \(U3223215\)](#), Nov 6, 2006

I can't see what all the fuss is about.

Like a pp said, some activity places stamp kids hands so that they know when their "hour" is up, so what's the big deal? It wouldn't bother me in the slightest (I would just be glad that my DD's good behaviour was being rewarded).

Sars

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[Message 16](#) - posted by [Lizzy-D \(U2727869\)](#), Nov 6, 2006

Abuse???

Chemicals???

Oh heavens above, what about when they get a bit of felt pen on them?

Or the glue on the stickers?

There are probably worse chemicals in baby lotion.

Hw did WE ever get to maturity - we painted our nails with tippex... (actually that might explain quite a lot).

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[Message 17](#) - posted by [sofeeflower \(U6118602\)](#) **, Nov 6, 2006

The playgroup my daughter went to sometimes gave them lollys as rewards. Which I thought really bad, I don't allow them at home as they rot their teeth.
I would far rather a hand stamp.

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[Message 18](#) - posted by [MUMMYYOFONE \(U4023018\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

HI Im with mummypie and Sars32 I'm pleased to say. What is all the fuss about!!!! If your child has allergies then common sense would tell you to speak to their teacher and see if there is an alternative reward they can have ie:sticker.

MO1 🤔

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[Message 19](#) - posted by [FattyCakeShop \(U3460208\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

I think home schooling must be the only way forward, to stop my lad suffering this serious abuse 🤔
It will alter my life, but rather that then both his hands fall off.

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[Message 20](#) - posted by [FattyCakeShop \(U3460208\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

Having said that, if he takes after his Dad he should be OK as I cannot see him getting many gold stars!! 🤔

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[Message 21](#) - posted by [mollys_mummy \(U4705172\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

I agree with everyone else, everything has to be tried and tested in schools and nurseries, so won't have any harmful chemicals.

The only thing I can say is, why not put it on some sort of chart so they can keep a record of their

achievements, and can aim for more.

Ie, when you get 10 stamps you get an extra one, when you get 20 stamps you get a little certificate. This way they still get to show their parents how well they've done, but they can also have goals to get more stamps (or stickers as my school used to do when I was younger). It was a great incentive for kids to do their best work.

Maybe I'm just a bit over the top, but I just think it would be better than a stamp which will wash off and be forgotten about in a weeks time.

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[Message 22](#) - posted by [Helen M \(U3487557\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

but when I mentioned this to my mother, she thought it was 'abuse'

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Oh for God's sake. 🙄🙄

If you don't like the nursery's method of rewarding your child then talk to them about it and, if you're really bothered, I'm sure they would be happy to try a different method with him - although, assuming he hasn't suffered some freak allergic reaction and his hand hasn't fallen off, it seems a bit unfair on him to be singled out from his friends in this way. But please stop with the ridiculous (and quite frankly dangerous) allegations of abuse... it makes me SO cross how everything is seen as "abuse" these days. Apart from anything else, it's a complete insult to those who have been the victims of genuine child abuse.

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[Message 23](#) - posted by [stiffybing \(U3790176\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

The gym class my daughter attended for a while used handstamps as a reward for hard work. They asked the children to put their hand in the air if they thought they had worked hard enough for a stamp - of course they all put their hands up, but I liked the idea of getting them to assess themselves. Every week one of them would get an extra stamp for being the "star" and that stamp would be on the foot! My only problem with it was that my DD would not want to wash afterwards as she would lose her reward.

I wonder if the pre-school use stamps to prevent any small children eating their stickers!

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[Message 24](#) - posted by [barnsleycook \(U2188327\)](#), Nov 7, 2006

The only thing I can say is, why not put it on some sort of chart so they can keep a record of their achievements, and can aim for more

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I do that. Every time my daughter gets a sticker at school it goes on to a chart. When she has 10 stickers she gets a treat - a new hairband or pair of socks for example, not sweets though.

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[Message 25](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 8, 2006

Yes- the idea of a chart is a great one IMO! They do that at my DS1's school, and he loves it - they get a star under their name and 10 stars make '1' etc. and then when their card is full of stars they get a prize of some sort! Something like that anyway! It's a great way to motivate children I think- and I wish we'd had something of the sort when I was at school....

(In my day, doing well at your work/behaving well was just expected of you...Bad behaviour was punished, but good behaviour/trying hard etc. seemed to be deemed to be its own reward! Not great psychology really, was it? 🤔)

I think some pps are showing a lack of sensitivity towards other parents whose children may be less 'robust' than their own! Nobody's suggesting these stamps are going to lead to amputation etc.- but if you had a child whose soft baby skin flares up all red and sore at any irritant, you might understand why some of us would prefer schools etc. not to use skin stampers or anything similar as a matter of course! 🤔🤔🤔

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[Message 26](#) - posted by [Helen_M \(U3487557\)](#), Nov 9, 2006

Pippa

Not at all, and sorry if I caused any offence - as a child I had incredibly sensitive and irritable skin myself so I totally understand where you are coming from. I am very careful about what I put near my own son's skin, and I agree that ink stamps probably aren't the ideal way to reward good behaviour.

BUT I really do object to the original poster (or her mother's) assertion that stamping a child's hand with ink could be seen as an act of child abuse. I think it's very dangerous how people are so quick to cry abuse these days... and then we complain when our children get sunburn (far more serious and damaging than a rash/ skin irritation, surely?) because their teachers/ carers aren't allowed to apply sun cream anymore lest they be accused of something horrible....

Child abuse is unthinkable horrific and I just get cross when it is trivialised like this.

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[Message 27](#) - posted by [jel1976 \(U5307226\)](#), Nov 9, 2006

Luckily anoth my kids dont burn easily but Ive seen some kids come out of school frizzled as the suncream has worn out come lunchtime! I understand that they cant put it on the kids but I dont see the prob with giving them a squirt in there hands and get the child themselves to rub it in.

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[Message 28](#) - posted by [alisonlees \(U1472246\)](#), Nov 10, 2006

As far as I can make out, they probably can put suncream on the children, especially if you give them written permission, but older children can be taught to apply it to themselves. After all, even suncreams that say 'lasts 12 hours' then say 'reapply very often' don't they?

As far as the term 'abuse' goes. I don't agree with my mother, but I think she has a point. It is disrespectful to go stamping on a child's hand, if that child isn't really old enough to say whether he or she likes it, and it is disrespectful to the child's parents to act in such a cavalier fashion.

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[Message 29](#) - posted by [charliemouse \(U2311929\)](#), Nov 10, 2006

I think most kids could say whether they like it or not! My two year old could! - did your ds not like it??

Is it disrespectful to stick a sticker on the fabric of your clothes? That might ruin the surface of the fabric. I think you can second guess so much in life and the possibility of an endless variety of opinions on things is so likely that you'd never do anything for fear of upsetting people - and you still have to live your life, in all sorts of areas including schools.

I see you don't agree with your mum about it being abuse, but to even think it begins to compare in principle is still trivialising true abuse, I think, which is far more serious in rights impingement.

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[Message 30](#) - posted by [noseymum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 10, 2006

Oh for goodness sake, how can it be disrespectful?

If you go to theme parks, if you want to go out and get back in again, they stamp your hand to show that you are entitled to come back in. So would you say "You can not stamp my hand it's disrespectful". They would then say "well hard cheese you can't get back in". If your child has an allergy, fair enough, but as I believe some one pointed out, these things are made to be used for this and will (i'm sure) have been made with allergies in mind.

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[Message 31](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 10, 2006

Sorry but I have to agree with Alison on this one! There is a clear and crucial difference between applying something to a child's clothes (e.g. a sticker) and applying something to a child's body, in this case a stamp on the skin.

The thing is some children have very sensitive skin- and applying such things can hurt/damage a child's skin, which is quite a different matter from damaging clothing!

My 2 year old's eczema seems to have been triggered by staff at his nursery applying suncream to his face and legs. They asked me to sign a consent form- and against my own instincts , I signed it. I didn't really want to, as I rarely apply suncream to him at home, preferring to protect his skin by covering it up/keeping him out of the sun etc. But I felt pressured to agree to it, and foolishly did so. (He now has his own special fragrance free suncream for people with eczema at the nursery in case they need it!)

Now I'm not blaming these people at my son's nursery, as I agreed to it. But the fact is that eczema and other problems can be triggered by anything being applied to the skin, so I really believe these stamp things would be best avoided. It's not as if applying them is necessary in any way- and lots of great alternatives are available (stickers, starcharts etc.)

And yes- Alison- I agree absolutely with you that it is disrespectful to take this ,as you say, cavalier

attitude to such matters. I'm sure most parents would agree that the health etc. of their child's skin is pretty important to them; it is NOT a trivial matter. 🤖🤖🤖
Only someone who has never seen what painful skin reactions in a child can be like, could be so blase and insensitive on this point! 🤖

(And we cannot compare fairgrounds etc. with nursery schools/schools- teachers are 'in loco parentis' in a way that funfair operators are not- and have a 'duty of care' towards their pupils which no fairground worker has! Can't pps see that crucial difference? 🤖)

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[Message 32](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 10, 2006

There appears to be quite a few things about your DS's Nursery that you are very unhappy with! Why do you send him to this Nursery? Is there any other Nurseries that he could attend?

My advice is to either move him or let the teaching staff get on with their job. I think the Nursery Staff are probably using a range of reward methods to see what gets the best results for individual children. They are probably doing their best to nurture and encourage him.

My DS has been given smiley hand stamp at school and I think this is a great reward for him because he was so proud of it! I think that school and parents should work in partnership, you have to support the policies and techniques that the school choose and trust their experience.

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[Message 33](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 10, 2006

Excuse me ClarkeGable- I'm not sure who you're berating in the above post- but I have never suggested I am unhappy with my child's nursery!

In fact, if you care to read my post properly, you'll see that I specifically stated that I DID NOT BLAME my son's nursery staff for what happened re. the suncream, as I had signed the consent form and therefore given them permission to apply it.

I was merely agreeing with Alison that schools/nursery schools blithely stamping children's hands as a 'reward' is not a good idea, and also indicates a lack of thought.

Happily, this stamping business has never happened with any of my children- so any criticism I have voiced of the practice is merely hypothetical, and not any sort of attack on any staff or establishment that have dealt with my children.

(And for the record, I am extremely happy with my son's nursery: He loves it and is thriving there. The staff are great! 🤖)

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[Message 34](#) - posted by [noseymum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

I assumed CalrkeGable was addressing alison, and when you put it like that, I think I have to agree!

Not happy with the stamping, not happy with the books. Is there anything she's happy about? 🤔

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[Message 35](#) - posted by [alisonlees \(U1472246\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

If I don't like something, then chances are somebody else won't like it either. I shouldn't have to move my son out of the nursery, even if it were a possibility, which it isn't really: it should be possible for the nursery to improve its standards. If it were any good, then it wouldn't have these things wrong with it to begin with.

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[Message 36](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

TBH I echo PPs postings - big deal 🤔 Bigger things happen in life. If this is the worst that's happened at nursery, it sounds like a good one.

DS1 got 3rd degree burns at his nursery - i WAS a wee bit miffed then 🤔

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[Message 37](#) - posted by [jel1976 \(U5307226\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Blimey bet you were angry!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In response to the threads about sensitive skin. Surely if that was the case you would inform your school and tell them under no circumstances are they to put anything on there skin.

I cant believe how some people have really overreacted to an ink stamper!

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[Message 38](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

I don't see the fuss, it could be worse they could be doing temp tatoos or something! These dyes are usually vegetable based and as others have said, they'll be exposed to much harsher 'chemicals' in their normal day.

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[Message 39](#) - posted by [pingypenguin \(U3833222\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

I'm sorry I have bitten my tongue on this thread for long enough.

Improve its standards?

It has dared to send your child home with a book and reward your child for good behaviour.

Crikey if thats a nursery that needs to improve its standards I'd hate to see a really bad one!

If you're not happy about ink on your child's hand, a quick, friendly word one morning I'm sure would be an end to it. As for the books - is it really that hard to look after a book?

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[Message 40](#) - posted by [FattyCakeShop \(U3460208\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

👍 Great thread!! 🤔

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[Message 41](#) - posted by [pingypenguin \(U3833222\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Oh Fatty - you are a wind up merchant!!!

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[Message 42](#) - posted by [sceb350 \(U2314934\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Just to clarify the suncream issue for those of you with children at primary school, as teachers we are not advised to apply suncream to children, but should squirt some into their hands so that they can apply it. At my school that is done as part of PSHE from Reception upwards. That has been union advice for several years. Just shows how much we have to protect our children and ourselves as teachers.

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[Message 43](#) - posted by [miss_muffet \(U3699000\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

I too have thought long and hard before posting but here are my thoughts.

To my mind this is the 3rd time you have complained about the school. The 1st was over the time of a meeting or something similar and now about the book and ink stampers. My 1st feeling was that you had a complete over-reaction to something quite trivial but having giving it more thought i wonder if it's something else.....

If i am correct this is your eldest child going off on his own to school and he isn't in your care during this time. As his mother you are protective and for very 1st time these things that are happening are out of your control and i wonder if you are taking it out on the school? It's hard to let go of the reigns a little but it is part of growing up and you need to let your child do this. Your anxiety about everything the school does will have an effect on your child if you are not careful. Relax a little and i'm sure the whole experience will be a much more enjoyable one.

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[Message 44](#) - posted by [FattyCakeShop \(U3460208\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

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🤪 FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT! 🤪

Oh Fatty - you are a wind up merchant!!!

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Moi!?? Surely not 🤪



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[Message 45](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

FCS is NOT a wind up merchant - he speaks the truth and i love him 🍌🍌

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[Message 46](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Thank you Noseyum you are right I was replying to Alison, not Pippa8. I had not read what you had written Pippa8.

I just remember reading the previous posts that Alison has written, she really does not seem happy with what sounds like a good Nursery. If my views conflicted so much with the Nursery then my child would not still be going.

You have to remember that Schools and Nurseries have to find a middle road with such a wide range of people with very differing views. There is always going to be someone who is unhappy. They are just trying to do their best.

By the way Pippa8 this still is not aimed at you, I still haven't read what you wrote!

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[Message 47](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

I Love Fatty too, He is brill!!!!!!!!!!

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[Message 48](#) - posted by [FattyCakeShop \(U3460208\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

FCS is NOT a wind up merchant - he speaks the truth and i love him

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🤪 Hurrah, that has made my afternoon, but I am also in trouble with Miss CakeShop now 🤪

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[Message 49](#) - posted by [barnsleycook \(U2188327\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

It is disrespectful to go stamping on a child's hand, if that child isn't really old enough to say whether he or she likes it, and it is disrespectful to the child's parents to act in such a cavalier fashion.

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I'm sorry, but I think this is a bit of an over reaction. How are you going to cope when your LO goes to school?

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[Message 50](#) - posted by [pingypenguin \(U3833222\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Wind up merchant was an affectionate term - I think your contributions to this thread have been concise, valuable and hilarious!

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[Message 51](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

"It is disrespectful to go stamping on a child's hand, if that child isn't really old enough to say whether he or she likes it, and it is disrespectful to the child's parents to act in such a cavalier fashion." AlisonLees

Blooming heck Alison. If you're going to look at life that way then where would it end. The first time I sent LOs to nursery was it disrespectful, they weren't old enough to say if they liked it?

When they were younger & cried if I left the house for a rare evening to myself, was it disrespectful of me to go anyway?

And tonight if they decide they're not ready for bed at bedtime, will it be disrespectful of me to send them to bed anyway?

Cavalier fashion?? The nursery stamped your LOs hand as a way of praise! From your posts it seems your child had no ill effects from the stamp, so IMO you are complaining and criticising about a lot of hypothetical could have's here and that really is not good for the soul.

Sit your mother down, tell her what really constitutes abuse (and believe me, a stamp on the hand does not amount to abuse). Perhaps if I'd received a stamp on the hand once in a while as a child I wouldn't be embarking on further education in my 30's...and perhaps if adults around me had been capable of recognising abuse I'd have fared better too...but then perhaps they were all so busy looking for violations of my human rights in the form of ink stamps on my hands that they didn't notice all the other stuff!

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[Message 52](#) - posted by [noseyum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

If I don't like something, then chances are somebody else won't like it either. I shouldn't have to move my son out of the nursery, even if it were a possibility, which it isn't really: it should be possible for the nursery to improve its standards. If it were any good, then it wouldn't have these things wrong with it to begin with.

Quoted from [this message](#)

Oh come on alison, do you really believe that the Nursery needs 'to improve its standards'?

As others have said it sounds fine to me. Are any other parents complaining? Have you even spoken to the school about your concerns? If it is only *you* who has a problem with the school, then yes you would need to take your child out. They won't change what they are doing just for one individual!!

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[Message 53](#) - posted by [charliemouse \(U2311929\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

If I don't like something, then chances are somebody else won't like it either

Quoted from [this message](#)

well, not necessarily.

You've heard people saying; "there's always ONE!" 🤔

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[Message 54](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Message posted by ClarkeGable

Thank you Noseymum you are right I was replying to Alison, not Pippa8. I had not read what you had written Pippa8.

.....

By the way Pippa8 this still is not aimed at you, I still haven't read what you wrote!

Quoted from [this message](#)

Thanks for that CG! Good to know you're so interested in my opinions...🤔

Perhaps you'd like my msn address so that we can communicate in even more depth?🤔

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[Message 55](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Message posted by KidTechnical

"It is disrespectful to go stamping on a child's hand, if that child isn't really old enough to say whether he or she likes it, and it is disrespectful to the child's parents to act in such a cavalier fashion." AlisonLees

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.....

.....

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Quoted from [this message](#)

And why exactly is complaining/criticising hypothetically such a bad thing, so bad for the soul? It does my soul good to 'meet' someone like Alison on here, who's prepared to consider things a bit more deeply and seriously than is the norm!

And why should someone not draw attention to something they feel is wrong/misguided, just because they personally or their own child in this case, has not suffered the feared possible consequences? 🤔 Our society would be in a poor state, if people felt complaining about things was only reasonable if they personally had been harmed in some way by those things- whether it be racial discrimination, sexism, the treatment of offenders, slipping standards of hygiene at their local hospital..... or indeed an example of 'bad' practice at their local nursery school!

This may seem like a slight issue in the grand scheme of things, but it is still one that matters to parents and their children, surely? These ink stampers might cause a reaction in some children's skin- and even if the risk is small, and only a tiny proportion of the pupils will be affected, surely it would be wiser to simply use a different method of rewarding good behaviour/ conscientiousness etc.?

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[Message 56](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

...because Pippa, not everything is someone's fault, and not everyone is perfect, and because i want

my kids to experience life, not be cocooned in some insurance crazy, scared-to-do-anything-with-the-kids-in-case-they're-sued nursery/school etc.

Personally, on a work level, i am sick to the back teeth of people complaining about the slightest thing that has 'gone wrong' in their lives, and expecting it to be someone else's fault, and that someone will pay for it.

<ok, rant over.... as you were...🤔>

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[Message 57](#) - posted by [noseymum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Why haven't we got a 'clapping' smilie? 🤔

Bravo skinny! 🤔

Pippa, if alison is so unhappy about the way everything is done at the nursery, shouldn't she speak to them about it rather than just moaning on here about it! If I ever have a concern regarding my lo's health/safety etc, I speak to the staff. And I mean speak to them, I don't go in half cocked. I give them a chance to explain their side. After all, as I have said, it is not only alisons child that has to be considered is it? 🤔

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[Message 58](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Well skinny- I get what you're saying- but I believe in looking at each case separately and deciding what I think about it: In this case raised by Alison, I just don't see why it would be such a big deal to just not bother with these ink stamper 'rewards'- it's not as if they are essential to the majority or needed in any way, is it? 🤔

I confess that as the parent of a child with extremely sensitive skin, I would be one of those parents who'd be unhappy on a personal level, if my LO came home with a smiley face etc. stamped on the back of his hand! I could just do without it, IYSWIM? And I'm sure most parents whose kids have any such problems would feel the same.

Surely it just makes sense to use a different method of encouraging the children? That way, ALL the parents can be happy - and let's face it- the children will be thrilled with any obvious reward they get, won't they?

And I have to admit- this attitude of "Well- it doesn't affect my wee Jimmy, and he loves it- so sod off you whinging mums and dads with your oversensitive kids and overconcerned attitudes. If you don't like it, lump it- keep your kid at home....!" reminds me of the sort of intolerance usually associated with certain tabloid newspapers- and really depresses me. 🤔

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[Message 59](#) - posted by [barnsleycook \(U2188327\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

I think the point that has been missed here is that a responsible nursery wouldn't rubber stamp the hand of a child with sensitive skin anyway.

I have a friend whose son has so many allergies, that the nursery he went to was very careful about the things he came into contact with. As I mentioned before, when my daughter was at pre-school they rang me to ask if they could put a sticking plaster on her.

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[Message 60](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

That sounds like a great nursery barnsleycook! 👍

But there is another point your argument misses: With small children, indeed with anyone, sensitivities to things are often unknown until the skin reacts! Not all parents even realise their Lo may have any such problem before attending nursery/school etc.

So the first anyone might know of a problem, might be after these ink stampers have been applied! I don't think you can always rely on the parents having given the staff prior warnings about 'sensitive skin' etc. So why not just avoid the risk altogether, and give the child a star or something similar? And if they're too expensive, draw them! 😊

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[Message 61](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

<off to put my kids in a big bubble just in case they're sensitive to anything i haven't thought of yet.....>



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[Message 62](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Message posted by skinnymawhinny

<off to put my kids in a big bubble just in case they're sensitive to anything i haven't thought of yet.....

Quoted from [this message](#)

Ha, ha skinny! (Don't you know what they say about sarcasm?😏)

But the thing is skinny- you're not a teacher/nursery worker etc. are you? You're a mum- and obviously you are sensible and right to make your own decisions about these matters. But at a nursery school, the staff are in a quite different position and have a legal duty of care towards their small charges. They have to consider the whole picture, all the different children they're looking after and make decisions and choices based on that. In such a situation, surely it is just common sense to avoid unnecessary risks such as those associated with applying ink stampers to the skin? I know that would be my approach if I ran a nursery school!

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[Message 63](#) - posted by [noseymum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Pippa, I disagree. I think most sensitivity would have shown itself before the child attends a nursery and as has been stated, parents have to inform the school of these things. If alisons child had suffered a reaction to this stamp, I could understand her being upset (even if she did not know prior to the reation that her child had an allergy). However, my understanding is that she thought nothing of it until her Mother decided that the school was guilty of child abuse! And what we have all be saying is it can hardly be classed as such. Her child has not been tied to a chair and gagged for being naughty, or molested or smacked. Her child was given a reward that had no ill effects whatsoever. Where is the harm in that? 😏

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[Message 64](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Hi nose! I think you're missing what Alison was trying to say on here: She wanted other posters' opinions on this practice and also on her mum's rather extreme comment about it being 'abuse'. Alison didn't say she herself thought 'abuse' was the correct term for this. She said the practice showed 'disrespect'- which I think we can all agree, is not quite the same as 'abuse'!

Just because inkstamping is not 'abusive', doesn't mean it's a wise choice of reward. You ask where the 'harm' is: The 'harm' is that for a small number of children, this choice of 'reward' may cause a 'bad' reaction in their skin, thus risking discomfort or pain. 😏

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[Message 65](#) - posted by [noseymum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Well I'm sorry, but I still can't see that it can be classed as disrespectful either!

As I have previously stated, if a parent has an issue with something that is being done with their child, then they should speak to the school about it.

There was no harm done to Alison's child. There was no 'bad' reaction. If she bothered to check with the school, I'm sure the school would tell her that the ink used is non-harmful. Schools are very 'clued' up these days, they have to be. Do you seriously think that they would be stupid enough to do something that could leave themselves liable? They are only too aware, I'm sure, that some parents overreact to the smallest thing. And that's what this is an overreaction.

I thank god I am not a Teacher. I really do.

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[Message 66](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Message posted by noseymum

.....

I thank god I am not a Teacher. I really do.

Quoted from [this message](#)

And with some of your attitudes, nosey, I thank God for that too! 😄😄

It was the principle of this business that Alison was talking about. She thought it was a 'bad' idea, irrespective of whether her own individual child had been adversely affected by it or not!

I'm sure like the rest of us, she would talk to the staff directly about any concerns. But like all of us, she came on here wondering about how the rest of us felt about this issue. I do think it's pretty harsh to tell Alison that she should take any such quandaries to the school, and imply that she shouldn't air her worries/thoughts on here...

(Mind you-she's probably wishing she hadn't bothered now... 😄😄)

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[Message 67](#) - posted by [mollys_mummy \(U4705172\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

Hi everyone, I think you all have a point, but I also think that you are all different extremes. Me and my mum had this discussion earlier, that things I have a go at her about (regarding my DD when she takes her out), seem really important to me, but don't seem important to her. I think some people can be really sensitive to certain things/subjects where others will just think it doesn't really matter either way.

Eg, I expect my DD to be fed at certain times and have proper meals, where my mum will think an extra half hour won't hurt and just snacking on toast, biscuits and sweets won't hurt. We are both opposite extremes, but neither extreme will really hurt my DD.

On the point of it being disrespectful, I think it is disrespectful that once you reach high school options age PE isn't mandatory in all schools, I think it's disrespectful that some schools fill the kids with rubbish for dinner instead of offering good balanced meals. (both situations regardless of parents views).

On the point of allergies, most parents do know about allergies before school age, but if you stop these things happening just because they might have an allergy, they will only try it themselves when they are older (except it would be the child's fault not that of the school), so it's better to let them get on with it while they don't have so much independence (sp?).

Besides which MacDonnalds have been offering these stamps of cartoon characters which my DD 17 months old has got hold of and been happily stamping everything in reach with, including herself.

In my opinion, like I said before, they should use stamps on charts so they can keep a record. But I also think this whole thing has been blown out of proportion. Correct me if I'm wrong, but we were only asked for our opinion, not judgement.

Mollys mummy

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[Message 68](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

"And I have to admit- this attitude of "Well- it doesn't affect my wee Jimmy, and he loves it- so sod off you whinging mums and dads with your oversensitive kids and overconcerned attitudes. If you don't like it, lump it- keep your kid at home....!" reminds me of the sort of intolerance usually associated with certain tabloid newspapers- and really depresses me." Pippa8

Sorry I was not sure how to quote? Please can someone tell me how.

Ok Pippa8, I have read what you have to say. I still disagree. I am the first to be a "Whinging Mum" if my child is in discomfort or danger. My child has severe skin allergies and I am still in

favour of the stamps, I will list below just some of things that trigger his rashes:-

Organic Shampoo
Normal Childrens' Shampoo
Adult Shampoo
Sudocrem
Baby Oil
Baby Bath & Shampoo
Dairy Products
Medicines (the label has to be checked)
Sun Cream (especially made for children ones)
Washing Powder

My son has been given these hand stamps at school and we both think they are great. Sometimes you have to let your kids try things even if you think it is not ok. Even though my son has allergies to all these things he has never had a reaction to a stamp.

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[Message 69](#) - posted by [sofeeflower \(U6118602\)](#) **, Nov 11, 2006

At the playgroup where I work we have lots of ink stamps for the children to use. They stamp them on paper, on the table and when I turn my back on themselves, also the ink from the pads gets on their fingers OMG we must stop using them.

but how about paint no matter how many brushes we put out the children always like to paint with their fingers, someone may be allergic we must stop painting.

Then there's playdough (my personal favorite) I'll be really sad to stop that.

and I expect we should stop dancing in case someone falls over, and jigsaws in case someone gets a splinter, and duplo, some of those bricks are small enough to swallow, and the cars and trains the children have been known to throw those.

You get my point.

seriously though parents are asked if their children have any allergies when they first start, I would have thought it would be the same with your nursery.

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[Message 70](#) - posted by [charliemouse \(U2311929\)](#), Nov 11, 2006

sofeeflower - you just posted what i was going to!

as an infant teacher, the kids get a lot of stuff on their hands. As far as I know, it is a very, very rare thing indeed that they will encounter that will cause them to die. Therefore, i am all for living our lives and dealing with any minor probs as they crop up - I want my kids to hve experiences and learn to be responsible and deal with consequences etc etc and sometimes you have to get your hands messy to do this!

I mean, what would you have your kids do at school really, to keep them ultimately safe? Even paper gives cuts and kids stab themselves or others... with the pointy end of a freshly sharpened pencil. They can trip over the carpet edging on the entrance to the classroom. many whack their heads on the pegs on hanging up their coats. etc etc etc

By all means if you object to something, voice it at the school. Should I have done this and a concern be raised by a parent, I either wouldn't do it on that kid again if it was policy to allow it or I would consult with management and presumably the policy would be to never do it on anyone... But I really think schools have to help kids just live their lives, or it would be a very boring environment in which to learn...

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[Message 71](#) - posted by [BEVERLEYBOOBLE \(U6594273\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

I can't believe the comments on this forum regarding kids' hands being stamped being classed as abuse. How sad, and what a sad world we are living in if you think that is the case. It's no wonder things are tightening up so much with the likes of people around like that. Kids can't even have sunscreen applied by a teacher now without parents' permission which is totally absurd. No doubt if they didn't apply any and the kid developed skin cancer you would still be complaining.

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[Message 72](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

"And why exactly is complaining/criticising hypothetically such a bad thing, so bad for the soul?"

Well ok, I was being tactful, I don't actually believe in souls but was trying to speak to Alison on her level (as a believer). Being less tactful, I'd say it's not good for one's mental health. If I were Alison's friend in real life I'd be a bit concerned.

"It does my soul good to 'meet' someone like Alison on here, who's prepared to consider things a bit more deeply and seriously than is the norm!"

Erm, I'd like to think I'm a deep thinker and serious (on occasion), but there's a fine line between discussion and debate & plain old fashioned whinging! Personally I prefer to conserve my energy for battles worth fighting, rather than just consistently replying "black" to anyone who says "white"!

"And why should someone not draw attention to something they feel is wrong/misguided, just because they personally or their own child in this case, has not suffered the feared possible consequences?"

Well I'm sitting here watching CBEEBIES with the LOs and they are advocating all sorts of wrong and misguided activities. Painting, using pens, Boogie Beebies. I shall email them immediately and demand they take CBEEBIES off the air. On Monday I may go to the nursery my son attends and

ask them to stop using stickers in case he develops an allergy to the gum on the back...no one has ever suffered an allergic reaction to the gum but it could happen. They should also stop using paper, someone could get a paper cut that may become badly infected, requiring antibiotics that he may become resistant to. They should bin all the arts & crafts things (including chalk, it may trigger asthma)...where would it all end? Probably in a room that resembles an operating theatre rather than a nursery - oh what fun!

"erm Our society would be in a poor state, if people felt complaining about things was only reasonable if they personally had been harmed in some way by those things- whether it be racial discrimination, sexism, the treatment of offenders, slipping standards of hygiene at their local hospital..... or indeed an example of 'bad' practice at their local nursery school!"

Your point caller? Please compare like with like pippa, now you're trivialising sexism, racism, slipping standards of hygiene (which unlike a stamp on the hand can result in death). I think that if all people ever did was complain about stuff that never happened then this society would be a miserable negative place to live (more so than it is!). Seriously pippa, giving a stamp to the back of the hand is bad practice?

"This may seem like a slight issue in the grand scheme of things, but it is still one that matters to parents and their children, surely?"

Erm, well not really pippa, if you read over the posts on this thread you'll find that it doesn't matter to the majority of the posters on here. I'm guessing that if you did a quick poll of the general population of the UK they'd tell you they really did not give a rats bottom too.

"These ink stampers might cause a reaction in some children's skin- and even if the risk is small, and only a tiny proportion of the pupils will be affected, surely it would be wiser to simply use a different method of rewarding good behaviour/ conscientiousness etc.?"

I'm sure they could reward differently, but some people will just NEVER be happy & will pick holes in whatever they do want and for that I'm grateful for homeschooling. I do not think the majority should suffer because of what may (but has not yet) happened to the minority.

I'm actually starting to really feel for the poor nursery teacher who obviously thought s/he was doing the right thing by rewarding the child. I wonder, how would she feel if the next time s/he goes to stamp Alisons LO he repeat (as they have a tendency to do) what his granny said to his mother about abuse??

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[Message 73](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Message posted by KidTechnical

"erm Our society would be in a poor state, if people felt complaining about things was only reasonable if they personally had been harmed in some way by those things- whether it be racial discrimination, sexism, the treatment of offenders, slipping standards of hygiene at their local hospital..... or indeed an example of 'bad' practice at their local nursery school!"

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Quoted from [this message](#)

Well KidTechnical! You say 'please compare like with like'- I have to say I don't think comparing what you let your children do at home and any risks associated with that and what a nursery school does in terms of rewarding children in its care, is really 'comparing like with like'- yet you felt free to do just that in your post above! 😊 They are two completely different areas of childcare- this debate is about the duty of care of nursery school staff, about the policies that should or should not be in place in such establishments- not about what parents choose to do with their own children in their own home!

Secondly, you assert that I am 'trivialising' sexism, racial discrimination etc. by mentioning them along with 'bad' practice in places like nursery schools: But my point was about the principle of standing up for what you believe in, whatever the scale of the issue, and whether you yourself are directly affected by what you are criticising or not! By using those other more obvious and large scale examples of something many people get angry about, I was merely trying to illustrate the truth of my assertion that you don't need to have been personally 'damaged' by something to perceive it as 'wrong' and to stand up and denounce it!

Finally, you imply that this is not worth criticising/denouncing etc., because "it doesn't matter to the majority of the posters on here". Well firstly, since when was something 'wrong' or invalid or a waste of mental energy simply because the majority of the population saw it as unimportant? I think you'll find there are a huge number of extremely important things in our society which the vast majority of the general population couldn't give two hoots about (or 'a rat's bottom' as you put it!) (Constitutional reform....penal reform....the rights of illegal immigrants...?) Most people just don't care that much about things they perceive as not directly affecting their own daily lives, as being irrelevant to them. But it doesn't mean such things are not worth caring about- it doesn't mean they should be ignored/dismissed as unworthy of anyone's attention etc.

And secondly, in any case, when I said that I thought this issue mattered to most parents and their children- I didn't mean ink stamping itself, but the issue of the duty of care of establishments like nursery schools and how they should deal with our children (this ink stamping question being just one small example of that)! Surely it is fair to say the latter issues do indeed matter very much to most of us! 😊

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[Message 74](#) - posted by [Su-Ellen \(U2375706\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

I can't believe this thread is still running! I take my job as a parent very seriously, but I have to say that in a way, Alison and others, I am very glad for you that the only thing you have to worry about in your child's life is that they may/may not suffer irreparable physical or psychological trauma from an ink stamp on their hand! I am pleased that you are not currently sitting at home having administered the second lot of ventolin today to your baby, and waiting to see if his respiration rate goes down, so that you won't have to take him to hospital to be nebulised! This sort of thing I take seriously as a parent. The sorts of things I have a live and learn attitude to are things like ink stampers. SO what if he gets a little skin reaction? Fine tell the nursery, they won't use it again and will use another reward system. Have a sense of perspective. The way to get the best out of nursery and school provision for your child is to have a cooperative attitude to them. If you don't like it, ask them about it, don't sit and stew on it. I think that the reason that so many posts have appeared is that the mention of the word "abuse" in the context of an ink stamper has trivialised it, and offended any real victims of abuse.

This is a calmer version of what I really wanted to post! 🗝️👉🗝️

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[Message 75](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Message posted by BEVERLEYBOOBLE

I can't believe the comments on this forum regarding kids hands being stamped being classed as abuse. How sad, and what a sad world we are living in if you think that is the case. It's no wonder things are tightening up so much with the likes of people around like that. Kids can't even have suncream applied by a teacher now without parents permission which is totally absurd. No doubt if they didn't apply any and the kid developed skin cancer you would still be complaining.

Quoted from [this message](#)

Um...perhaps you should take the time to read the previous posts properly before wading in with attacks of this kind?

Nobody on here has said inkstamping is 'abuse'; in fact, everyone who has posted on here has agreed that this practice is NOT abuse! (The only person who suggested this was abuse was the first poster's mum, who hasn't actually posted anything on here at all! And even the latter's daughter,

Alison, has stated that she wouldn't class this inkstamping business as 'abuse' either!)🙄🙄🙄

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[Message 76](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Oh for goodness sake, Su-Ellen- Nobody is suggesting that there aren't bigger, more serious things to worry about than the use of ink stampers in nursery schools! And the ONLY person who thought this was an example of 'abuse' was the first poster's mother!🙄🙄🙄

I also have deeply serious more important health issues to worry about in connection with my own 3 children than skin reactions to unnecessary reward practices! But that's not what we're discussing here: the first poster raised the issue of good/bad practice at nursery schools, so that is what we've been addressing.

And no one said this ink stamping thing was going to cause their child 'irreparable physical or psychological trauma'- so don't get cross with imaginary opinions/overreactions! It was mentioned that skin reactions can cause discomfort and pain - just because it's not 'life threatening' doesn't mean it should be dismissed as not worth caring about!

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[Message 77](#) - posted by [Ursandkids \(U2315787\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Oh dear, my LO who will be 2.5 in jan is due to start nursery. Now, I tend to use this board quite a bit but it seems to me that this thread has become a bit of a slating one and I hope that when I raise my worries and concerns about minor issues that you all will be a bit nicer to me.

I think the pp who mentioned that it is definitely hard to let go with your first child has a point. I really have to force myself not to intervene at playgroup when my daughter is jostling for the bike etc... I just would like to know that I can run things by you lot anonymously before I charge up to the poor nursery teacher with my concerns even if it seems a ridiculous one.

In saying that I reckon my LO will be far safer at nursery than at home with me. I am so clumsy I keep knocking her over not realising she is right behind me.

Urszula

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[Message 78](#) - posted by [mrsjemima \(U1707954\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

This thread does seem to have gotten out of hand.

The OP didn't say she thought it was abuse granted, but it doesn't seem to take much to make her worry about the nursery.

If I worried as much about my DD in nursery I would be a wreck! My DD apparently has an accident book to herself, but she also has a fantastic rewards chart. I wouldn't mind if she came home with a stamp on her hand, even if she was allergic to it. At least then if she was allergic then i could advise her nursery of this. Plus a stamp on the hand is way better than some of the injuries my daughter has come home with.

I would just be happy to know that my child was doing well enough to be rewarded.

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[Message 79](#) - posted by [Su-Ellen \(U2375706\)](#) , Nov 12, 2006

Just what is bad nursery practice here? The fact that a positive reward system is being used? The fact that on top of the myriad other forms and consents the nursery has to have filled in they deigned not to mention the fact that they use ink stampers? Or the fact that this matter has been entirely blown out of proportion and that a simple chat when the original posters' child was collected would have cleared the matter up?

My point is be open and honest with your child's care givers and it will serve you better. The ability to hysterically blow all matters out of proportion and focus on the trivial seems to be a forte on this board at times! I am sorry if anyone is offended by this, but in my view, I would have run this past RL friend, and they would have said "get a grip!" and the matter would be over! I think the Original poster is better served by listening to the "reality check" type posts here than the hysterical ones.

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[Message 80](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#) , Nov 12, 2006

Ha,ha Urszula! 🤔 A welcome relief to hear a measured friendly voice of reason on here again, amidst all this anger and impatience! 😊

Don't worry- most posters won't jump down your throat for expressing your concerns on here. I'm not quite sure why so many pps on this thread have got so riled about some of us worrying about things like ink stampers at nurseries, or the general issues raised by the practice ! 🤔

Surely if a parent isn't bothered about something which perturbs another parent for various reasons, the courteous, civilised response would be to either ignore the issue or assert that it isn't something they regard as important/a problem - rather than to start raging about people 'trivialing' 'abuse' etc.and acting as if because the matter doesn't bother them, no one else has the right to be bothered about it either?

I don't insist that everyone else should be concerned as I am about this use of ink stampers in particular; I understand that to many parents it's simply not of interest etc. But equally I don't think it's fair to treat those of us who DO see such matters as worthy of concern/debate, as though we're a bunch of neurotic, overreacting idiots with nothing more important to think about! 🤦🏻 I find my brain is big enough to worry about both the bigger and the smaller issues in life! They both have their place. 🙌

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[Message 81](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Message posted by Su-Ellen

.....

My point is be open and honest with your child's care givers and it will serve you better. The ability to hysterically blow all matters out of proportion and focus on the trivial seems to be a forte on this board at times! I am sorry if anyone is offended by this, but in my view, I would have run this past RL friend, and they would have said "get a grip!" and the matter would be over! I think the Original poster is better served by listening to the "reality check" type posts here than the hysterical ones.

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I for one have never been anything other than 'open and honest' with my child's 'care givers'. And I don't think anyone else suggested they behaved in any other way either! 🤦🏻

You say the ability 'to hysterically blow all matters out of proportion and focus on the trivial seems to be a forte on this board at times'. Well- that is merely your perspective. IMO the ability to pounce intolerantly on other parents whose priorities and viewpoints differ from your own (of course far more rational and sensible viewpoint 😊) also appears to be a forte of some on here at times! 😊

And you say you think the original poster "is better served by listening to the "reality check" type posts here than the hysterical ones." But whose reality are you talking about? Because you see this ink stamping issue as a waste of time, and therefore not worth anyone else bothering about, doesn't mean that is the 'reality' of the situation! It is merely the reality of your opinion- so please don't imply that those of us whose opinions differ radically from your own, do not have a hold on 'reality', whereas you and those who agree with your perspective do!

And as for 'hysterical'? Just who is being hysterical here? 🤦🏻 Those who are getting so enraged by those of us who see this matter as worth caring about or those who are saying that in THEIR opinion, the issue is a valid one?

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[Message 82](#) - posted by [madmumof4 \(U3581718\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

I've been following this thread but not had chance to voice my opinion for what it's worth.....!!

I have 2 children at school and 1 at nursery, they have all had their hands stamped with smily faces. We visited flamingo Land - they had their hands stamped, we visited 'Eureka' in Bradford - they had their hands stamped. I have never given it a moments thought before, and it has certainly never bothered me. My children have been delighted to have a stamp as a reward, far more fun than a sticker which always comes off.

I visit many schools in my job, and loads of them use this as a reward (we just get on with it in the north!!!) 🤔 In one school I caught the kids pressing the backs of their hands together when they got a stamp so that it transferred to the other hand too!

I know that with my kids school, if I just mentioned that I preferred that they didn't get a stamp they would respect that - I think that that is where the respect comes in - if you state a preference and they honour it.

OK opinion over, backlash from Pippa awaited 🤔🤔 !!! (only joking Pippa!!)

Gillie

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[Message 83](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Ha, ha Gillie! Not at all! The only thing I've been getting annoyed about in this discussion is people wilfully misinterpreting other posters' comments and expressing so much impatience with views that they see as different from their own i.e. wrong! 🤔

I have absolutely NO problem with people like you who are simply voicing your own opinion on the issue raised, not laying into other pps for theirs!

To do with the specific point about ink stamping, I've already admitted my own point of view is influenced by having a LO with highly sensitive skin- and I completely respect other parents' differing opinions on that. 👍

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[Message 84](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

The ability to hysterically blow all matters out of proportion and focus on the trivial seems to be a forte on this board at times! I am sorry if anyone is offended by this, but

in my view, I would have run this past RL friend, and they would have said "get a grip!" and the matter would be over! I think the Original poster is better served by listening to the "reality check" type

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What I do think is a 'forte' of this board is the way a concerned parent can be belittled and berated on here for having views which may not be in the majority! Why would anybody want to come on this board and ask for help or an opinion, when s/he is likely to be told to 'get a grip', need a reality check or read a post where somebody says they wouldn't want to be their friend (or something like that)!

For God's sake, parenting is probably the toughest job we will ever do- as parents we are forever questioning whether we are doing the right thing, and as a mother I've been on a 5 year guilt trip over something or other since the day my DD was born. So why are we so harsh on our own? I thought this board was here for support and the sharing of information, so how on earth are some of the comments made to the original poster going to help her?

Some people have nobody to speak to about issues surrounding their children, or they raise something here before taking it further elsewhere (which is what I assume the original poster was doing here). Perhaps they shouldn't bother.

I'm sorry, I've no doubt that I've offended someone here, but like Pippa I don't get why people get so impatient with people whose opinions vary from their own.

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[Message 85](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Wow Skyelark! <threecheers> Couldn't have put it better myself! 🤔🤔

It does seem strange the way so many posters rush to jump on any parent who seems oversensitive or overanxious (in THEIR opinion I hasten to add!). I mean- there have even been a few cruel suggestions on here that the original poster may have mental health problems, such is her concern about her children etc. 🤔 That's just uncalled for and quite unjustified, isn't it?

(No wonder Alison has disappeared! Who could blame her? I just hope she returns: She's an interesting and thoughtful contributor to this board IMO- whether I agree with everything she says or not! 😊)

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[Message 86](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

I thought those personal comments were appalling.

I hope Alison doesn't leave, but I have seen other posters leave these boards after similar (and stronger worded) threads. I don't think people should shy away from speaking their mind and there will be times that people will hear things they don't want to, but there is a way of putting over an opinion, without resorting to personal comments and without belittling a genuine poster.

I think people forget that for some, parenting can be a lonely experience, especially in those first months. Message boards like these can be a lifesaver and you're going to get ladies in all sorts of emotional states coming on here such as after (like me) miscarriages or having a baby. A thread like this could really knock them for six, and this board isn't here to do that.

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[Message 87](#), Nov 12, 2006

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[Message 88](#) - posted by [Su-Ellen \(U2375706\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

Pippa thanks very much for your comments, they have cheered me up as always! Funny how those people who post with an opposing view to you are derided and those who vaguely agree are posted to with an abundance of winks and smileys! I am merely posting my opinion, no one else has to agree with it.

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[Message 89](#), Nov 12, 2006

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[Message 90](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 12, 2006

I think you'll find Su-Ellen, that I tend to overuse the wink and laughing emoticons in most of my posts...I'm addicted! 😊😂

But is it surprising if I seem happy when someone agrees with my point of view to some extent, especially after having that point of view lambasted and mocked from all sides over quite a period of time? 😊

I would have thought a small amount of joy, or pleasure, in such circumstances was only natural!

And actually your criticism here just doesn't stand up: If you look back over the posts you will see that there are many occasions where I have responded to a poster who has expressed a completely different point of view from mine, showing no derision or anything even resembling derision- see e.g. my reply to madmumof4 above!

I've made it pretty clear that I accept we all have different opinions on these things- and if you haven't understood the point I was making on here, then that's too bad, but not really my fault. I think I've expressed myself pretty clearly...some may think, a little too clearly or too lengthily I appreciate.. 😊😂

Oh- and I'm glad my posts cheer you up! 👍 Sadly I can't in all honesty reciprocate that compliment.. 😊😂

Oops! There I go again -they should ration those winks and laughs..I just can't help myself! 😊

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[Message 91](#), Nov 13, 2006

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[Message 92](#), Nov 13, 2006

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[Message 93](#), Nov 13, 2006

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[Message 94](#), Nov 13, 2006

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[Message 95](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

I am NOT sarcastic - I am facetious 😏

I must admit Pippa, this thread seems to be really getting to you - I really don't understand what the big deal is here?

It's an ink stamp!!!! If the nursery had given the child a permanent tattoo, I could understand the issue.

If the original poster didn't like it, well, I'm sure she will tell the nursery, but I really really really don't get why it's such a problem.

As I've said before, DS1 came home from his nursery with 3rd degree burns on his hand, that the nursery hadn't noticed 🙄 - that WAS a problem.

An ink stamp? Not so much.

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[Message 96](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Gotta defend Pippa here. The issue doesn't seem to be about the ink stamp anymore, I think everyone has made their feelings clear on that. The big deal is the disrespectful way some people communicate on here, and some really unpleasant things have been written about the original poster. How necessary is that and how is that going to help her?

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[Message 97](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Twinkle twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are

Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are

.....just trying to diffuse tension 😏

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[Message 98](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

😏 nice try! 😊

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[Message 99](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Ha,ha skinny- I nearly did something similar yesterday. "Maths mansion,
Maths mansion
The only way out is....
mathematically!" 🤪

But actually I don't think Skyelark's latest post seems particularly tense: She's just pointing out that the issue on here now no longer seems to be about ink stamping or nursery schools at all...😏
It's become a discussion in part about how we should treat each other on this board, irrespective of whether we agree with each other's ideas/opinions or not!
And to my mind all this scornful sarcasm and personal antagonism is not just reminiscent of the playground and hurtful to the target, but it also betrays a lack of more cogent argument on the part of the attacker!

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[Message 100](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

....repeat after me.....

"There's no place like home, there's no place like home..."

<click heels three times>



(...it's ok - the doctors are here now...)

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[Message 101](#) - posted by [funkyfred \(U2219564\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

And to my mind all this scornful sarcasm and personal anatagonism is not just reminiscent of the playground and hurtful to the target, but it also betrays a lack of more cogent argument on the part of the attacker!

Funny that Pippa, because you always remind me of a schoolyard bully. 🤪

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[Message 102](#) - posted by [noseyum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

OMG, what's with all the modded posts! 🤪🤪

Oh how I've missed them. 🤪

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[Message 103](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

D'you know what nosey? - i've never been modded!!!

Is it a rite of passage - should I be aiming for modding?! 🤔

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[Message 104](#) - posted by [Isla Van Udder \(U4386593\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

OMG.

A posting about stamping hands escalated to this ..??? 🤔

Isla

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[Message 105](#) - posted by [noseyum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Definitely skinny. 🤔

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[Message 106](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

OMG, what's with all the modded posts!

Oh how I've missed them.

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Oh just the usual stuff, you know..... 🤔

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[Message 107](#) - posted by [noseymum \(U3675996\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Might as well go back to the cbeebies board then 🤔🤔

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[Message 108](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

This is getting very heated, but I have to say Pippa8 you are taking it all too personally. You jumped down my throat yesterday and I was not even referring to you. You said I was berating someone, when I was only raising a valid point, that if I had as many issues with a Nurse as Alison, my child would no longer be going to that Nursery. I was not attacking her in any way, sometimes we just go along with things and don't realise we have other options.

I don't agree with her on the Inkstamp, but that is just my opinion. I have been a lurker on this board, trying to get up the courage to join in, and then the first time I do, you jump down my throat. It could have quite easily put me off.

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[Message 109](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

I'm sorry CG, if you were put out by my reply to your original post on here the other day. But I had misunderstood, as you had posted straight after my post without saying who you were addressing, and I thought you meant me, at least to some extent!

So sorry about that- it was the result of some confusion.

TBH I didn't attack you personally or sarcastically in any way, did I?

And later I even made a joke about your lack of interest in my posts, after you'd said you still hadn't bothered to read what I'd said- suggesting you and I get to know each other better on msn etc.

Hardly nasty, heated stuff that, surely?

The thing is for some of us, people rubbishing our concerns and way of looking at things like this ink stamper business, is what we find puts us off wanting to post our worries or feelings on here!

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[Message 110](#) - posted by [skinnymawhinny \(U3617813\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

The trouble is I think a lot of posters are essentially saying the same thing, but coming from opposite sides of the argument!

*Disclaimer:- the above is the opinion of the poster only, and does not represent the views of the BBC, any other posters, or lurkers, or any one else in the known world, or indeed universe 😊

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[Message 111](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Ok then Pippa8, lets be buddies now? xxx

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[Message 112](#) - posted by [newbloke \(U4231280\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

my wonderful post lost to the moderators??
how?
why?

can I just say how much i am enjoying this thread

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[Message 113](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Urzula, dont worry about raising ANY issue on this board...the problem I have with this thread it that it's turned into Pippas thread, I responded to a post by alison (as did everyone else) that I believe said something along the lines of "what do you think?". Unfortunately it seems that pippas mission on this thread is to go through other peoples posts with a fine tooth comb and challenge them (& I admit this has gotten my hackles up). A casual conversation IMO has turned into a "debate" thanks to pippa. I personally take a nurserys duty of care very seriously, I do not think this hand stamping incident is an example of them failing in their duty of care. Over and out!

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[Message 114](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Alison, I apologise if I offended you, I didn't mean to imply you have mental health problems I'm sure you don't & I REALLY do enjoy your contributions on the board, on the whole they are positive and supportive & I'm quite ashamed of myself that I've not been...as explained in my previous post I got my hackles up, sorry!

Please come back & we can all play nice 🤖

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[Message 115](#) - posted by [curlymopp \(U2724948\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

and now I inflame the thread even further...🤖

I don't think the purpose of this board is to just be supportive. I think it's here for advice. Sometimes we don't get the responses we want to hear but that doesn't mean these opinions should be stifled. We're a broad spectrum.

I don't want to contribute to a board which requires all posts to be purely supportive. When I ask for help on here I want honesty. And I've read a lot of honest opinions here which I admire.

x

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[Message 116](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Oh Max!- You saw through my ruse then....🤖 And I was trying sooo hard too:I came on here, the first to respond to the original poster's request for help; I sympathised with her although agreed with everyone else that 'abuse' was probably not the term for this ink stamping business; I confessed that as the mum of a 2 year old with highly sensitive skin I was one of those who wouldn't be v. happy about such a choice of reward method for small children...etc. etc.

I then tried to defend both Alison and myself from widespread mockery and scorn of our stance, and argued passionately (yes- perhaps a little overpassionately🤖) about the rights of individuals to complain about/disagree with things which didn't directly affect themselves. I then agreed with a couple of others that expressing so much impatience with and intolerance of other posters' concerns or preoccupations, was a bit harsh and seemed uncalled for...

But you saw through it: Really I was 'the bully' all along! Oh - Lewis Carroll would be proud of us here in messageboard land. The illogicality, the topsy turvy nature of our 'reality'- it's breathtaking!

And if anyone accuses me of employing a touch of sarcasm to defend myself? How very dare you!🤖🤖 And anyway, it's allowed on here- see above!

P.S. Next time can I play the 'straight' bad guy please? It's so much easier- this subterfuge is exhausting...😓😓

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[Message 117](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

ok pippa, thanks for that last comment, I now have an image of a camp bad guy mincing!

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[Message 118](#) - posted by [Li Li \(U2312065\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Gosh, I wonder if I should take up this 'back of the hand stamping' issue with the nightclub in our town, as they stamped the back of my hand as I entered the club, didnt even ask me, just grabbed my hand and stamped it, hmmm if I had been more aware of the situation I might have put it to them about allergies etc, and it took days to wash off, and it caused a row between my partner and I and I said I wouldnt go night clubbing.....😓😓😓



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[Message 119](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Message posted by KidTechnical

...the problem I have with this thread it that it's turned into Pippas thread, I responded to a post by alison (as did everyone else) that I believe said something along the lines of "what do you think?". Unfortunately it seems that pippas mission on this thread is to go through other peoples posts with a fine tooth comb and challenge them (& I admit this has gotten my hackles up). A casual conversation IMO has turned into a "debate" thanks to pippa. I personally take a nurserys duty of care very seriously, I do not think this hand stamping incident is an example of them failing in their duty of care. Over and out!

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Oh- I see KidT.- So it's ok for you to pick me up on what you see as the flaws in my arguments, but when I respond in kind, I'm on a 'mission' 'to go through other peoples posts with a fine tooth comb and challenge them...' And that gets your 'hackles up'...Mmmm. That seems a bit unfair to me.

And I'm responsible for turning 'a casual conversation' into a "debate", which seems also to be some sort of hackle raising 'crime' of mine in your eyes! 🤔

Well- all I can say is that a lot of threads must really annoy you on here KidT.- as a fair number of them 'turn into debates'. And I'm not even a contributor to loads of them- so there must be quite a few more posters on here who are 'guilty' of this misdemeanour... 🙄

Yes- I've contributed my thoughts on this particular thread just like everyone else, and once it became more of a debate, I argued my corner pretty strenuously I'll admit- but to suggest I am singlehandedly responsible for turning a 'casual conversation' into a heated 'debate'? No- that's just not true IMO.

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[Message 120](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Message posted by ClarkeGable

Ok then Pippa8, lets be buddies now? xxx

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Ok CG! 🤔 (P.S. I don't want to be rude, but are you male or female? It's just your board name suggests a man, but I'm not sure.... 🙄)

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[Message 121](#) - posted by [Skyelark \(U2277067\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

I dont think the purpose of this board is to just be supportive. I think it's here for advice. Sometimes we don't get the responses we want to hear but that doesn't mean these opinions should be stifled. We're a broad spectrum.

I don't want to contribute to a board which requires all posts to be purely supportive. When I ask for help on here I want honesty. And I've read alot of honest opinions here which I admire.

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I don't think this board is here purely to offer support either but I see it as one of it's functions. And I've written elsewhere on this thread that people should be honest, but there is a line between being honest and being downright offensive or rude.

For me, advice and support are very simliar things. A new parent will come on here looking for reassurances and advice, and yes that translates into seeking some support too. We are all in this parenting boat together- yes be honest with each other but why be so judgemental?

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[Message 122](#) - posted by [Li Li \(U2312065\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

PEACE AND LOVE !!!!! 🤝

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[Message 123](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

I am female. When I was trying to think of a nickname, all the ones I thought of were taken. I was looking around trying to think of a name and Clarke Gable sprang into my otherwise empty head and nobody had it already. Should I change it to Vivien Leigh or Scarlet O'Hara? What do you think?

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[Message 124](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

I have to agree with Skyelark on this- I know I argue pretty vociferously on here from time to time- and I know I get up some other posters' noses for that tendency... 🤔

When I get really riled , it tends to be more with what I perceive as intolerance of other people's points of view, priorities etc.- posters seeming to 'gang up' on another poster etc. or getting nasty and personally vindictive just because they don't like another poster's points or way of expressing them. Or just with what I see as a 'weak' point aimed at undermining a pp's point of view...

But if someone is clearly worried about some parenting issue etc. and comes on here seeking ideas and help, I really try to be supportive and to show some sympathy- and I'm not sure why some posters seem to take a rather more severe, impatient approach.

I can't help but wonder if some members use other members' problems and concerns etc. , as a sort of stepping stone to venting their own personal annoyance or anger over certain aspects of our society which they don't like..🙄

Political correctness, as it's known, or over liberalism as some might see it, the merits of bf over ff etc. and other areas which many people like to have a rant about...

So instead of really focussing on the individual poster's problem and plea for ideas etc., people sometimes just jump straight onto their favourite hobbyhorse (the unfairness of divorce law, the pressure to be 'politically correct' etc.) and start venting their more general rage at perceived inequalities, the folly of present day cultural pressures etc.

I know I often participate in more abstract debate on here and get on my high horse too, just like most of us do at least occasionally, especially once a discussion has broadened out from the original specific point/problem raised, but I do try to focus on any particular concern etc. another poster has raised in the first place..and if I think something raised is just a waste of time etc., I would usually choose to ignore the thread rather than wade in just to express my impatience with the poster! 🙄

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[Message 125](#) - posted by [Scarlett-O'Hara \(U6549950\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

I have changed my name to stop gender confusion. Please could someone tell me how to quote?

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[Message 126](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Well pippa, I was quoting your use of the word 'debate' when referring to what I saw as a conversational thread... so far as threads I'm on turning into a debate, I rarely come on here anymore, I'm too busy, usually I only make it along for FFF which most folks would be hard pushed to turn into a debate.

What you don't seem to be seeing is that the OP asked for peoples thoughts, people gave their thoughts and you have consistently tried to make people think like you, IMO another way of saying they are wrong really - yet you keep going on about people being entitled to their opinion, if that's the case then why not let people have their opinion? Instead you've just come back time & time again with comments like "if you fail to see" which is SO patronising IMO and was responsible for getting my hackles up.

But really I think the point of this thread going on & on & on & on, is that you really do not like not having the last word on an issue.

I'm really tired of this thread now!

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[Message 127](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Message posted by KidTechnical

Well pippa, I was quoting your use of the word 'debate' when referring to what I saw as a conversational thread... so far as threads I'm on turning into a debate, I rarely come on here anymore, I'm too busy, usually I only make it along for FFF which most folks would be hard pushed to turn into a debate.

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But really I think the point of this thread going on & on & on & on, is that you really do not like not having the last word on an issue.

I'm really tired of this thread now!

Quoted from [this message](#)

Unlike you KIdT.- who have clearly NO interest whatsoever in having the last word on any matter, least of all your minor disagreement with me on here 😊 (a disagreement which incidentally wasn't really about the issue most people have been discussing on here anyway...)

I can see why you might be so 'tired' of this thread, but I won't elaborate for fear of getting your 'hackles' sticking up even higher! 😊

And to suggest I won't let anyone else have an opinion which differs from my own, well- that just doesn't bear much examination: 'consistently tried to make people think like' me? Well- only insofar as anyone participating in any debate/argument usually does; it would be a bit strange to do otherwise! I have made it pretty clear that I don't expect everyone else to share my point of view about the subject of this discussion (ink stamps as a reward in nursery schools)- what am I supposed to do? Bite my lip when people lay into my posts (and beyond that, my personality!) just in case arguing back riles them, gets their 'hackles' up? 😊

And as for when this thread ends, it's not really up to either you or me, is it? Lots of people have posted their ideas and opinions on various points raised on here, and they or others may want to add some other comments. I certainly have little personal interest in keeping it going for my own sake in some way.. 😊 After all, it's not particularly pleasant finding yourself criticised and attacked from several sides- particularly when if you dare to respond to defend yourself, you just get lambasted

and mocked for doing that too! 🤔🤔

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[Message 128](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Ha, ha Scarlett-O'Hara! 🤔 Did you use to be 'ClarkeGable' then? 🤔

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[Message 129](#) - posted by [Pippa8 \(U3101721\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

Oh sorry SO- Last time I looked, your posts above were awaiting moderation or whatever they call it, so I didn't realised you'd replied to my previous question .. 🤔🤔
I think Scarlett-O'Hara's a great moniker- definitely less confusing than your former one... 🤔 and yes- probably better than Vivien Leigh too.. 🤔

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[Message 130](#) - posted by [KidTechnical \(U1246400\)](#), Nov 13, 2006

moi? Last word 🤔

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