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Boy knee trial - father on bail

A 40-year-old solo dad who made his son make his way home on his knees has been arrested for alleged child abuse.

Experts warned parents to refrain from disciplining children in an emotional state as abusive punishment could scar their psychological development.

The father, surnamed Lei, was with his two sons, eight and 10, when he was spotted punishing the younger one at about 9pm on Monday.

They were at the zebra crossing outside a mall on Kai Tin Road, where the boy was forced by Lei to kneel and pull his ears with his hands.

When the traffic lights turned green, the angry father rushed across the road toward Lam Tin MTR Station, with his son following, inching forward on his knees.

A man stepped in to try to stop the punishment. He accompanied the boy and reported the case to the police.

The father was arrested, as his son, with red and swollen knees, was sent to United Christian Hospital. He is in a stable condition.

Released on bail yesterday, Lei has to report back to the police by the end of next month.

"I admit that I'm a strict father. But if you ask whether I love him, I definitely do," he said, adding that it is not the first time he punished his younger son with such methods.

He heard from teachers at school on parent's day on Sunday that his son had been telling lies and the boy promised to make his way home on knees from the tutorial center, a 10-minute journey.

The boy got the punishment as tutors at the tutorial center complained he lied again, said Lei, who runs a waterproof engineering firm.

He said he wasn't worried about a criminal record, but fears that welfare authorities would stop him from seeing his boys.

A video clip which captures about one minute of the punishment was uploaded onto Facebook on Monday and went viral.

Against Child Abuse Wanda Hau Yuet-king assistant director said: "It is not a right time to teach children if parents are in an emotional state."

Hau said parents should offer their children guidance rationally step by step. They should ask themselves how they can help their children, letting them know what kind of improvement is expected.

"If you only wish to vent your anger, don't do it on your children," Hau said.

Psychiatrist Chiu Siu-ning said people who often received physical punishment during childhood could experience personality or emotional disorders later in life, such as depression and anxiety disorders.

Reference:

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news.php?id=178983&story_id=47204301&d_str=20170125&sid=11