# Children must be disciplined from a young age.

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A father had the habit of carrying his son on his shoulders whenever he went to the market. The son was too lazy to walk, so he sat on his father's shoulders and acted arrogantly, holding a stick to strike trees and plants along the way while making noise as they went.

One day, while traveling like this, they met an elderly pot seller carrying a basket full of earthenware pots on his way to the fair. The boy sitting on the shoulder felt like playing a prank. He struck the seller's basket with his stick, breaking three or four pots. The elderly pot seller did not have the strength to fight with them, but he decided in his mind to teach the boy a lesson. He took out ten rupees from his pocket, handed it to the boy, and said, "You did a wonderful job! Take this gift from me."

The boy was thrilled. Thinking he was rewarded for breaking pots, he assumed it was a good act.

A few days later, while riding on his father's shoulders again, he spotted a sturdy young man carrying a basket of pots. Recalling the previous incident, the boy thought, "If I break his pots too, I might get money again."

Without hesitation, he hit the young man's pots hard with his stick.
This time, the situation was completely different!
The young man flew into a rage. He immediately put down his basket of pots, pulled the boy down from his father's shoulders, and thrashed him. Then he turned to the father and said, "Haven't you found the time to teach your son some manners yet?" and struck the father as well.

**Moral:**

- If we fail to discipline children at the right time, life itself will teach them a lesson in a harsh way.
- Rather than excusing children's mistakes in the name of affection, it is the duty of parents to teach them right from wrong during childhood. A small lesson taught today can guide their life onto the right path tomorrow.