

# **SMACK-A-TRON**

09-08-2011, DAVE BLOUSTIEN

*THIS SKETCH COMES FROM TOPICAL SKETCH SHOW GOOD NEWS WORLD, AND RELATES TO THE QUESTION OF 'SMACKING CHILDREN', WHICH HAD BEEN IN THE NEWS AT THE TIME. THE JOKE PARTLY RELIES ON THE AUDIENCE'S FAMILIARITY WITH THE CAST, INCLUDING SAMMY J WHO IS SIGNIFICANTLY YOUNGER THAN EITHER CAL WILSON OR MIKEY ROBINS, LOOKS PARTICULARLY YOUTHFUL TO BOOT.*

SAMMY IS SITTING ON AN ARMCHAIR ACROSS A COFFEE TABLE FROM MIKEY AND CAL.

## **SAMMY**

Hello, and welcome to Disparenting. Today we're discussing physical discipline. To smack? Or not to smack. in the studio today we have child safety advisor Cal Wilson ...

## **CAL**

Hello.

## **SAMMY**

And discipline engineer, Mikey Robins.

## **MIKEY**

Hi.

## **SAMMY**

Cal, Mikey, I understand you two have been working together on a new product.

## **CAL**

That's right, Sammy. Everybody knows that it's it is harmful to smack your children.

## **MIKEY**

It's particularly hard on your palms.

## **SAMMY**

True.

**CAL**

But we also know there are times when reasoning just won't get the job done.

**MIKEY**

It's hard to put your kids on the 'naughty step' when you live in a single storey apartment.

**CAL**

So we've developed a new device to effect corporeal disciplinary processes on those of diminished temporal advancement.

**SAMMY**

In other words ...

**MIKEY & CAL**

Smacking kids.

**SAMMY**

This would be the 'Smack-A-Tron 5000'?

**CAL**

That's right, Sammy. The Smack-A-Tron is designed to deliver a short, sharp, disciplinary message to the child in question, without the parent having to take responsibility, feel guilt or be directly culpable for any developmental harm that might come to the child as a result.

**MIKEY**

The Smack-A-Tron is the bad guy, not mum. Not dad.

**SAMMY**

So, how does it work?

**MIKEY**

Well Sammy ...

MIKEY BRANDISHES AN OLD-FASHIONED CONTROL BOX WITH AN ANTENNA AND A DIAL.

**MIKEY (CONT'D)**

You simply need to locate the child in question, turn the dial to smack and ...

A HAND SUDDENLY POPS OUT FROM NOWHERE (BEHIND THE DESK, OR FROM JUST OUT OF FRAME OF THE CAMERA AND SLAPS SAMMY ACROSS THE BACK OF THE HEAD. SAMMY LOOKS AROUND CONFUSED. THE HAND HAS GONE.

CAL TAKES THE BOX FROM MIKEY.

**CAL**

It can be set to 'hit' ...

SAMMY IS SMACKED.

**CAL (CONT'D)**

'Slap' ...

SAMMY IS SLAPPED.

**CAL (CONT'D)**

'Clip over the ear' ...

SAMMY CLIPPED ON THE EAR.

**CAL (CONT'D)**

'Smack on the bottom'.

THERE IS AN AUDIBLE SLAP. SAMMY JUMPS A LITTLE, AS IF HE'D BEEN HIT ON THE BOTTOM. THIS HAPPENS BELOW THE DESK.

**CAL (CONT'D)**

Or, in extreme cases, washing your mouth out with soap.

A HAND POPS UP FROM IN FRONT OF SAMMY WITH A FOAMY DISHBRUSH AND WASHES HIS MOUTH OUT WITH SOAP.

SAMMY SPLUTTERS AND TAKES A SWIG OF WATER TO CLEAR HIS MOUTH.

**SAMMY**

Stop! Stop it!

**MIKEY**

What's the magic word?

SAMMY GETS SMACKED ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD AGAIN SEVERAL TIMES FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

**SAMMY**

Stop it ...

THE HAND WAVERS THREATENINGLY OVER SAMMY'S HEAD.

**SAMMY**

... please?

**CAL**

You see? It works!

**SAMMY**

Um ... so ... this technology ... kids are quite good with technology. Could the Smack-A-Tron be hacked?

**MIKEY**

Try it yourself.

SAMMY CAUTIOUSLY TAKES THE REMOTE AND TURNS THE DIAL, THEN PRESSES THE BUTTON.

HE IS SMACKED.

**SAMMY**

Ow!

**CAL**

You can't hack the smack, Sammy.

**SAMMY**

Why not?

**MIKEY**

Because I'm your dad, and I say so.

SAMMY IS SMACKED. THE HAND COMES IN FOR ANOTHER SWING, BUT SAMMY CATCHES IT. HE DRAGS IT OVER TOWARDS MIKEY TO ATTEMPT TO SMACK HIM, BUT THE HAND GETS FREE AND SMACKS SAMMY AGAIN.

**CAL**

Now thank us for our time, then go to your room.

**SAMMY**

No!

**MIKEY**

I'm going to count to 5 ...

**SAMMY**  
I don't wanna!

**MIKEY**  
Go.

SAMMY IS SMACKED.

**CAL**  
To.

SAMMY IS SMACKED.

**MIKEY**  
Your.

SAMMY IS SMACKED.

**CAL**  
Room.

SAMMY IS SMACKED.

**SAMMY**  
(on the verge of tears)  
Mikey, Cal: thanks for your time.

**MIKEY**  
Good boy.

SAMMY IS SMACKED.

**END**