

Hecht: Watch that mouth!

Pam J. Hecht, Special to WNC Parent Published 10:14 a.m. ET Dec. 23, 2019

Have you ever tasted soap? I have. My mother threatened me so much with the stuff, that I wondered how bad it could really be. So I tried it.

Turns out, soap is not particularly palatable. I definitely didn't want to have my mouth cleaned out with it. So I cleaned up my act and canned the cursing (at least around my mother).

More from Pam J. Hecht:

- [Hecht: Parents, put 'em to work! \(/story/life/family/2019/10/21/hecht-parents-put-those-kids-work-old-fashioned-chores/3914176002/\)](https://www.citizen-times.com/story/life/family/2019/10/21/hecht-parents-put-those-kids-work-old-fashioned-chores/3914176002/)
- [Hecht: Some kids are quiet, others are chatterboxes. Sometimes they're both. \(/story/life/family/2019/09/30/hecht-parenting-kids-who-quiet-public-and-chatterboxes-home/2415183001/\)](https://www.citizen-times.com/story/life/family/2019/09/30/hecht-parenting-kids-who-quiet-public-and-chatterboxes-home/2415183001/)
- [Hecht: Change can be hair-raising. Here's how to respond as a parent. \(/story/life/family/2019/07/29/pam-j-hecht-column-parenting-responding-to-change/1790684001/\)](https://www.citizen-times.com/story/life/family/2019/07/29/pam-j-hecht-column-parenting-responding-to-change/1790684001/)

My mouth still gets me in trouble, especially when kids are around. Every time a suspect word comes out, like "crap," at least one kid will invariably hear it, put me in "time out" and order me to fill out a "behavior contract" promising to never say a bad word again.

Some of the younger kids are like the word police — I can barely say the words, "shoot burgers" or "dang it," without getting an accusatory look.

So I've had to resort to making up my own swear words. I need to be able to let loose with language while playing ping pong, for example, since I do not like to miss a shot. It's can be surprisingly gratifying to yell "sniggly jiggets," "scrammel noots" or "wingle dinglets" when faced with extreme disappointment. On other occasions, I might say, in extreme frustration, "You're acting like a "dobbldy smishmoo," which, I suppose, isn't very nice.

One day in the classroom, a kid blew his fuse and fired an F-bomb. The other kids started hooting and hollering, then looked my way, waiting patiently for me to throw the book at him. Sure, that word wasn't the classiest choice for school use, and we discussed other options for expressing frustration in public places, but I could certainly relate. After all, I, too, have cursed many a time while doing math.

Another kid showed me a brilliantly drawn cartoon with a caption that included a very bad word. He seemed most proud about the naughty terminology, but I couldn't get too ticked off: this was, after, all art. I did suggest he tuck it into his backpack and maybe later either nix the no-no word or send his work to an appropriate, PG-13 publisher.

Get the **WNC Parenting** newsletter in your inbox.

Your Email

pamjh8@gmail.com



Foul language is commonplace in modern society, especially at my house during football season. Kids will catch profanity like colds at school or waiting in line at Target. But when your beautiful, innocent little child belts out that first ugly word, it can still be quite a shock.

Kids just want to sound cool. It's OK to, ahem, experiment with language, in my opinion, as long as they keep it clean when the book club is meeting in the living room.

Meanwhile, experts say that cursing in front of your children will not likely scar them for life (though it may rub off and not exactly be music to a parent's ears.) Which is a relief, because, again, football season — certain people in the house can't control their passionate outbursts. But aiming angry smack talk at someone else is a whole different matter, requiring serious time on the bench.

And maybe a few threats involving soap.

Read or Share this story: <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/life/family/2019/12/23/hecht-parenting-watch-mouth-kids-cursing/2559431001/>