Parents and teachers sometimes will give the children hugs or affectionate pats on their heads or backs to show how much they love and care about the kids. They also set the rules and discipline the kids when the kids do something wrong. However, things have been changed and some people now consider those loving and caring actions as molestation. As I read the article “The Downside of Keeping Kids at Arm’s Length” by James Harris, I felt sad since a little league coach was reprimanded for trying to maintain order and calm a player down by grabbing him by his shoulders for a second. Nevertheless, similar to parents, in schools, especially elementary and middle schools, teachers and coaches should have the right to love, care about the kids or compliment them when they are good and disapprove or punish them when they misbehave.

AS the adults, people normally earn respect from the kids by loving, caring, teaching and setting rules for them. However in this article, the coach’s caring action was considered off-limits for touching a player. But this touching was not a molestation. The coach just simply wanted to help the kid to control his own temper. If this simple action was even considered off-limits or prohibitive, how could people show the love and care for the children by not touching them? And when a child did something wrong, parents and teachers were not even allowed to show or punish them; thus, the child could never know what he or she did was wrong and he or she would show no respect for the adults. Moreover, people’s right to teach the children good things and show them wrongdoing would eventually be taken away or denied. The author was right when he
said, “such is our fear of child molesters and trial lawyers that we can no longer show affection with our neighbors’ children.” If any physical contact was considered against the regulations, people would not even want to stop the kids when they were fighting and hurting each other just because of the fear of molestation and law suits. Therefore, the coach was not wrong in his action and the adults such as parents, teachers or coaches should be allowed to control the kids of their behavior.

Besides, children are being exposed to the thought that any physical contact or touching an adult has with them, even if it is just simply an affectionate pat or their head or backs, is a molestation. It is true that people are trying very hard to protect the children from child abuse and they absolutely have the right to do that. However, everything has its own limits and not all touching or physical contact is child abuse or molestation. People may not realize that they are randomly setting a big distance between the adults and the kids. They might think that it is not good for the children to have any touching or contact with anyone. On the contrary, “Too often, we hurt our children more by not touching them. Instead of showing affection or disapprove we are teaching them fear and passivity.” The kids need love and care but they also need disciplines in order to know and for their own mistakes. That is why the adults and teachers are there to help and educate them. People may not know that they are putting so much limits around the children that they are now even fear of people or afraid of being touched and having contact with the adults and even with their teachers and coaches. So why do people always teach the kids to be nice, to have compassion for others and to help people around them while whenever an adult, just like the coach in the article, who ties to help people around them while whenever an adult, just like the coach
in the article, who tries to help and care about the kids, will be rebuked or accused of molestation? That does not make any sense. It is right when the author said, “We have reached a sad state of affairs if men cannot discipline boys by grabbing them by the shoulders, or congratulate them after a home run by hugging them. Soon we may even hesitate to take hold of a child’s arm to guide him across a busy street.” For this reason, as the adults, parents, teachers and coaches should have the right to love and care about the kids or compliment them when they are good and punish them if they do something wrong.

Being parents, people all have a hard time taking care of their own children. The jobs and responsibility of teachers and coaches in schools are not easier or less important than that. In order to educate the students well in schools, the adults need to have the right to set the rules and discipline the kids if the kids misbehave. In addition, they also need to be able to love, care and guide the students in studying and in life. And that is not molestation; in fact, it is a devotion or enthusiasm in order to raise the students’ respect, love, fun and interest for schools.