



Tots the ones who are in terror

YOUR headline "Terror Tots" is accurate, but it is the tots who are in terror.

Research has shown that 60 per cent to 80 per cent of children who behave aggressively in a school setting have a serious impairment in their ability to use language.

They do not understand what is expected of them socially, or academically, due to the structure and function of their brains.

It has nothing to do with being unprepared for school and doesn't mean they are unintelligent.

Some of them are suffering from the emotional effects of a violent family situation, but many would benefit greatly from a speech and language pathologist.

A test of their core language skills and higher language skills would show where the problem lies. Punishing a child for a neurological disability seems irrational, perhaps even abusive.

If the government spent money on speech and language therapy, most of these suspensions could be avoided, children would not grow up believing they are bad and money would be saved in the criminal justice system later on.

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