

Fined, the baby who threw a can out of his pram

Daily Mail

At 16 months old, Elliott Nightingale is a little young to know he shouldn't throw things out of his pram.

But that didn't cut any ice with an eagle-eyed litter enforcement officer.

He pounced when he saw Elliott throw an empty Pepsi can from his pram into a thorn bush.

Elliott's father, Lee Nightingale, 21, tried but failed to recover the can from the bush but the officer, working for Oldham Council, insisted on issuing a £50 spot fine.

Last night Mr Nightingale, of Oldham, said: "It is absolutely ridiculous. Elliott is only a baby and he wouldn't understand he was doing anything wrong by throwing the can out of the pram.

"I couldn't believe it when the officer gave me the fine for a tin being dropped when you get lorries dumping things all over the place."

The incident happened while Mr Nightingale was pushing Elliott home after a lunch-time trip to the shops.

Mr Nightingale, an unemployed labourer who lives with Elliott's mother, Teresa Nadin, 19, added: "I put the can in the pram after I had finished drinking it and Elliott must have thrown it out of his pram, like any baby does with their toys.

"I tried to get the can out of the bush, but it was so prickly and thorny I was worried about scratching myself and I had to leave it.

"The next thing I knew a litter enforcement officer, who said he had spotted the incident, stopped me and said I would get a fine.

"I offered to go back and try again to get the can out but I was told it was too late and I had to pay.

"I have never been in trouble and I simply can't afford to pay. All the money we get goes towards looking after Elliott."

Graham Boundy, principal environmental health officer for Oldham Council, said the fine was the result of a crackdown on litter.

He warned anyone who dropped litter - from cigarette butts, chewing gum and apple cores, to crisp packets, drink containers and fast-food wrappers - in a public place would be treated the same.

He added: "The council's enforcement officers and police community support officers are empowered to issue fixed- penalty notices to anyone aged ten or over who is seen to commit a littering offence.

"The council is committed to maintaining a clean and pleasant borough for all its residents to live and work in."

