

Stage	Stage Level	Student is...	Interventions
1	Calm	Cooperative. Accepts feedback. Follows directions. Sets personal goals. Ignores distractions. Accepts praise.	Involve in classroom/individual activities. Teach new skills (social, behavioral, concepts, etc.) Transition.
		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
2	Trigger	Experiences series of unresolved conflicts. Repeated cycle of failures. Responds emotionally. History of little reinforcement because of behaviors.	Provide adult support to encourage/redirect activity (difficulty level, need of re-teaching, change of activity, accept partial responses or approximation).
		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
3	Agitation	Exhibits unfocused behavior. Off task. Frequent stops/starts. Out of seat. Talking with others (when not supposed to). Social Withdrawal.	Need to change environment? Provide reasonable choices. Change in activity. Encourage/reinforce what is right.
		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
4	Acceleration	Shows signs of high intensity behavior (threatening, personal).	Provide safety. Stop interchange. Stay neutral. Stop demands.
		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
5	Peak	Out of control. Displays most severe behavior. Physical aggression, property destruction, self-injury, escape or social withdrawal.	Classmates removed/altered. Close door. Keep student in sight (may leave room if necessary if you can see student.) DO NOT engage. Cue, if aggressive, to stop. Keep body language calm. Don't provide any feedback.: negative or positive.
		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
6	De-escalation	Displays confusion. Decrease in severe behavior. Social withdrawal.	Focus is to minimize attention. Don't nag. Avoid blaming. Don't force an apology. Emphasis is starting anew. Don't process at this stage.
		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
7	Recovery	Eagerness to engage in non-engagement activities and/or sleep.	Training/isolation strategy. Debrief. Follow through with natural consequences. Positively reinforce displays of appropriate behavior. Begin new cycle. Calm. Re-establish routines/activities. Review rules (cue cards, etc.) Determine strategy for next time (model). Training is serious but not punitive.

		<i>Describe your student during this stage...</i>	<i>Interventions determined specifically for your student...</i>
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Content: George Sugi, PhD, University of Connecticut
Escalation Cycle