



Learning Community

Ensuring Safety



- **Be aware of the elements of a potentially violent situation**
 - A potential trigger to violence
 - A target
 - A weapon
 - Level of stress or motivation

- **Remove the potential trigger to violence by:**
 - Never touching an angry and potentially violent person
 - Avoiding any aggressive moves and provocative statements
 - Avoiding the conflict cycle and counter aggression
 - Removing others who might trigger the violence
 - --Body language is critical—

- **Remove the target by:**
 - Asking the targeted person to leave
 - If it's you, reminding the young person of your relationship or leaving the situation and asking a "neutral" staff to manage the incident
 - --The target may shift during the episode—

- **Avoid the weapon by:**
 - Discreetly removing objects
 - Maneuvering away from objects
 - Staying a safe distance away

- **Decrease the level of stress or motivation by:**
 - Using your relationship
 - Actively learning to identify feelings
 - Removing the audience
 - Offering alternative, non-aggressive ways to achieve goals

Adapted from *The Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Student Workbook*, Martha J. Holden, MS, Sixth Edition, Residential Child Care Project, Cornell University, 2009. Presented by the Youth Development Institute, New York City, January 2014.