

# Behavior Management Strategies for Children with Special Needs

- ✓ **Children are children.**
- ✓ **Managing children with emotional disabilities can be challenging – and gratifying.**
- ✓ **Legal constraints on discipline may exist.**

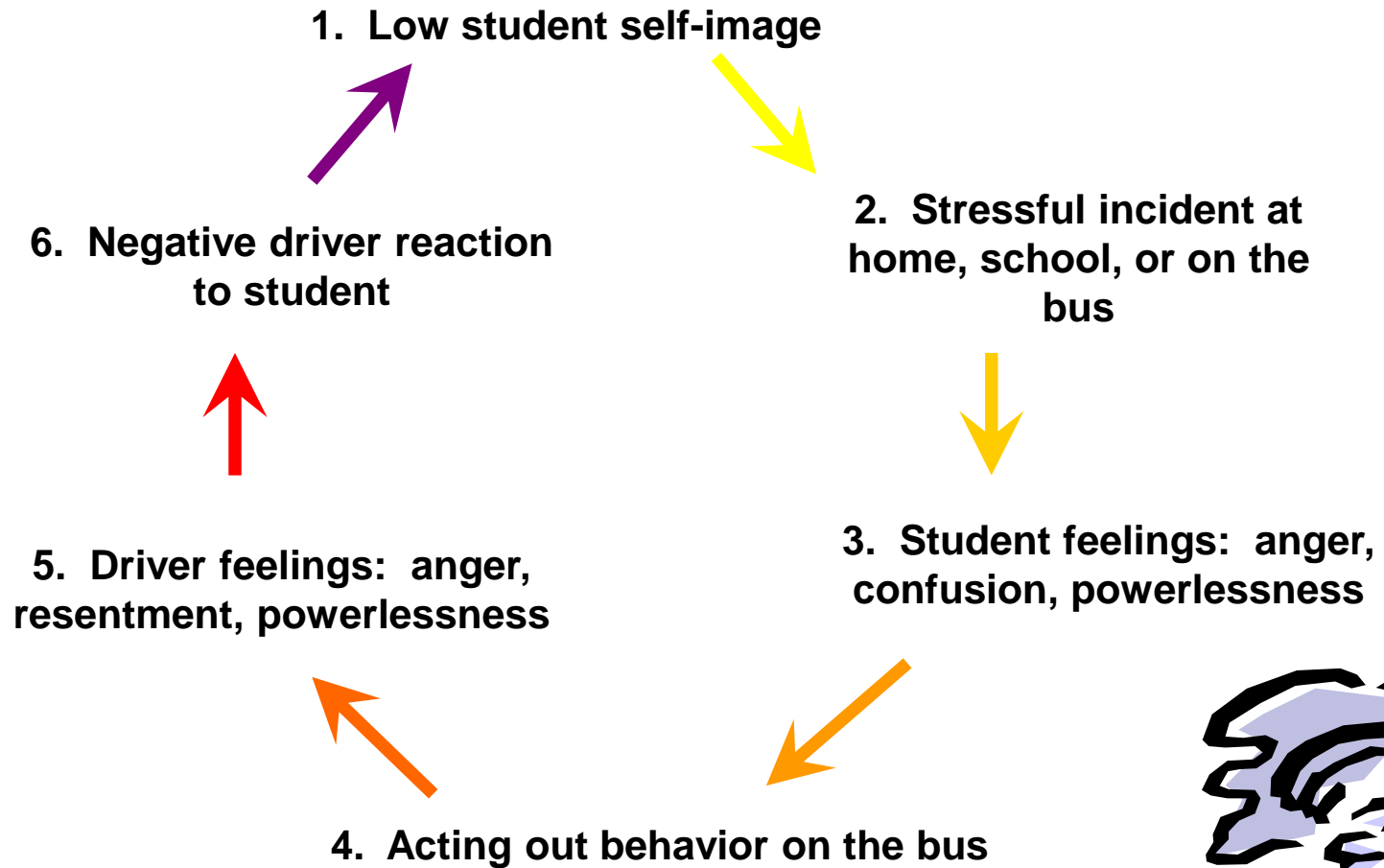


# What works in managing behavior?

1. Consistency.
2. Firm, but fair rules.
3. The power of the positive.
4. Modeling respectful behavior.
5. Using psychology, not force.



# Avoiding the Conflict Spiral



# Violence, Fights and Weapons

- ✓ **Most children are not violent, but threats of violence must be taken seriously.**
- ✓ **Awareness is important. “Know your children.” Watch for sudden changes in behavior.**
- ✓ **Utilize a distinctive radio code to report a suspected weapon – don’t confront the student.**
- ✓ **Anticipate and try to defuse volatile situations.**
- ✓ **If a fight breaks out, call for help, stop the bus in a safe place, don’t let others “egg it on,” and keep other children away as much as possible.**
- ✓ **Focus on discouraging the “losing” fighter.**
- ✓ **Don’t “wade in” to a fistfight between older students.**



# The Importance of Documentation

- **Use referrals properly: for serious problems; accurately; legibly.**
- **Provide details of what happened; note exactly what the child said.**
- **Use the “S-word” – explain how an action wasn’t safe.**
- **Discipline consequences may be different for children with special needs, but documentation helps educators evaluate the appropriateness of the child’s IEP.**
- **Documentation also protects transporters.**
- **Maintain a daily log.**



**Click on link below to complete the Behavior Management Quiz and then click submit.**

**[Behavior Management Quiz](#)**

**Together we**  
**ROCK!**