

BEST PRACTICES

for Effective Police/Youth Interactions



For Relationship Building & Incident Interventions

1 De-escalation

- Distract youth with out-of-left field question
- Direct youth to concentrate on breathing/counting
- Give time
- Separate youth from each other
 - Use an explanation for the separation to reduce anxiety of friends
 - Riff on comments

2 Listen

- Look for signs of diminished capacity: PTSD, mental illness, etc.
- Allow venting; when repetitive use distraction
- Seek GIGA: Good Intentions Gone Awry
- Re-State youth's view out loud
- Explain/translate ramifications

3 Explain

- Clarify rules
- Anticipate challenges to the rule
- Explain the reason for the rules
- Explain options (situation/alternatives/choice)

4 Responses at the Incident

- Look for Face-Saving Outcome
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Set plan of Action going forward – Graduated sanctions
- Check-ins
- Involve Parents

5 Expect Up

- Focus on the positive
- Remind youth of what could be
- Make it clear what **to** do and **how**

GENERAL RULES:

Watch Your Pronouns

- Don't start sentences with "You"
- *It's sad* (takes blame off person/situation for what's sad)
- *We need* (not "you have to...")
- *We have to figure this out* (not "*you better get your act together*")

Don't ask "why"?

- Ask how
- Ask *at what time* did you....

Don't take it personally:

- "Just doing a job."
- "It's the law."




REMEMBER: You may not be a social worker but to keep safe you need to be a psychologist!

Explain why...connect the dots for them...work through the implications.

B.L.T.

BEHAVIOR – LANGUAGE – TIMING



	What's the Kid's BLT?	What's Your BLT?
 BEHAVIOR	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.
 LANGUAGE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.
 TIMING	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.