

Book Review

Managing the Cycle of Acting-Out Behavior in the Classroom



Author: Geoff Colvin, Ph.D.
Publisher: Behavior Associates

Reviewed by Mitchell Yell, Ph.D

Summary: This user-friendly book presents Dr. Colvin's techniques for managing and responding to serious acting out behavior (e.g., physical abuse, property destruction, verbal abuse, defiance) when it is exhibited by students. Dr. Colvin first presents a model of severe acting out behavior and then gives practical information on how teachers or staff members can place a student who is acting out in the model and intervene appropriately using research-based strategies to manage and respond to the student's behavior.

Description: Dr. Colvin's book is divided into three sections. In the first section he presents his conceptual model act acting-out behavior. This model is divided into seven phases (i.e., calm, trigger, agitation, acceleration, peak, de-escalation, and recovery). Dr. Colvin's describes the behaviors that characterize each phase. His descriptions will enable teachers and staff members to place a student who is acting out in the appropriate phase of the model which will ensure that they can respond appropriately to the student.

In the second section of the book, Dr. Colvin presents research based strategies for preventing, managing, and responding to students who are engaged in acting-out behavior. The book emphasizes prevention, teaching, and precorrection in the early phases of acting-out behavior and safety, crises management, and follow-up strategies in the latter phases.

In the third section of the book consist of a case study that summarizes the procedures for managing the cycle of acting-out behavior. Dr. Colvin also includes an appendix of reproducible checklists, plans, and forms at the end of the book.

Recommendation: This is extremely useful and well-written book. It is essential reading for teachers, parents, administrators, counselors, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, and anyone else who work with children and youth who act out or engage in serious misbehavior. It is research-based, highly readable, and very informative.

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