Understanding Age-Appropriate CISM Interventions

When providing Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM, Everly & Mitchell) interventions, it is essential to tailor your approach to the developmental level of the students involved. The following chart illustrates a range of minutes suitable for discussion for different age levels, and from “teacher led” to “counselor led” interventions. In general, younger students need more teacher led interventions using activities (as opposed to “discussion”), while older students benefit from counselor led, verbal discussions.

![Minutes able to engage in session chart]

Teacher leads while Counselor observes
(Adapted from Johnson)

Counselor leads while Teacher observes

Recovery