



The Rucksack Conflict

1. Read the following story....

While Danielle was in the cloakroom, her rucksack accidentally clunked Thomas on the head.

“Ow!” said Thomas, rubbing his head. “You should be careful, stupid.”

Danielle felt bad about hitting Thomas, but she didn’t like being called stupid. ‘It was an accident! “Don’t be such a baby. It was your fault for getting in the way,” said Danielle.

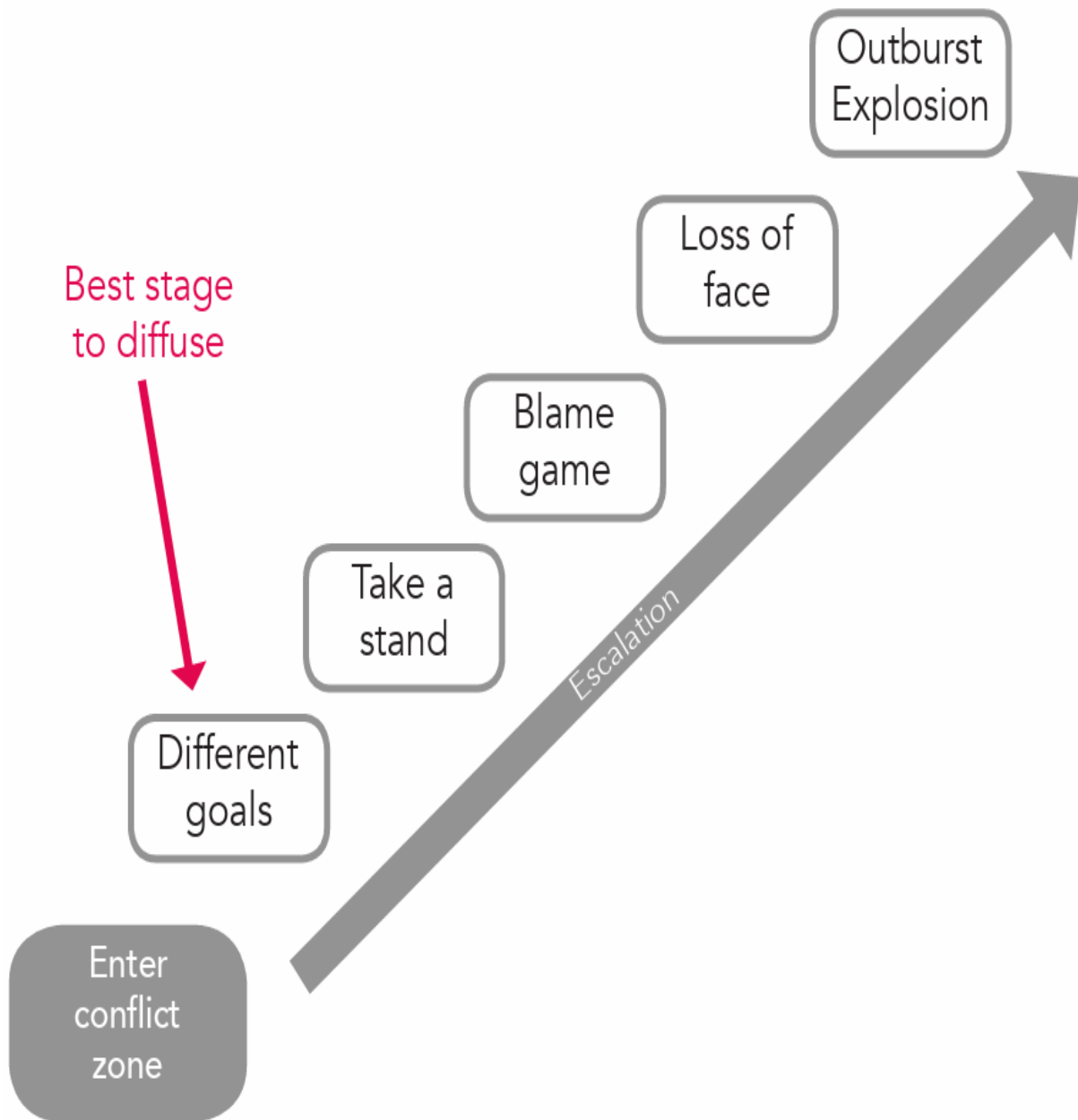
Thomas felt himself getting really angry. One of Danielle’s friends laughed and pointed – “Yeah don’t be such a baby” she said.

As Danielle bent over to pick up her rucksack, Thomas kicked it into the corridor.

Miss Reilly, their teacher, came out of her classroom. “What’s going on?” she shouted.

Danielle and Thomas pointed at each other and yelled “He/She started it!”

2. Give each pair or group of 3 a blank A4 copy of an escalator and the statements below cut into strips. Read the story again slowly. The groups pick out the relevant statements and stick it onto the steps of the escalator.



Danielle accidentally knocked Thomas with her rucksack

Thomas said "You should be careful stupid!"

Danielle said "Don't be such a baby. It was your fault for getting in the way"

Danielle's friend laughed "Yeah, don't be such a baby"

Thomas kicked Danielle's rucksack

The teacher said "What is going on?"

Danielle and Thomas yelled – "He/She started it!"

3. Ask the groups to think about the following questions:
- What was the first thing that happened in this conflict?
 - What did you place at the top of your escalator?
 - What did the characters do that made this conflict worse?
 - How did the characters feel at each stage on the escalator?
 - What could they have done differently?