

Frequency Recording

Description:

Frequency Recording is used to measure how many times a behavior occurs in a specific time period. This method can be used if the goal is to increase or decrease how often the behavior(s) occurs. Those designated periods of time may be a minute, an hour, a day or a week. Use this method if the behavior can be easily counted, is short in duration and has a clear beginning and end. A frequency measure should only be used when the length of the observation period is consistent from day to day.

A **Rate measure** should be used if the length of time for each observation period varies from day to day.

Examples:

Leaving seat, walking around the classroom, number of call outs, throwing items, asking to go to the restroom, being late or being on time to class

How to Collect the Data:

- Place tally marks on data sheet
- Place tally marks on a dry erase board
- Put a piece of masking tape on your arm and place tally marks on the tape
- Use a handheld tally counter
- Use pennies or paperclips, move items from one pocket to a another pocket each time the behavior occurs

How to calculate the data:

Frequency: At the end of the observation period, total the number of tally marks. For example, Anthony left his seat 6 times during Reading class (8:30-9:30).

Rate: Count the number of times the behavior occurred in the time observed. Divide that count by the length of time the behavior was observed. For example, if Abby called out 20 times in a 10 minute observation, the rate would be 2 call outs per minute (20 call outs divided by 10 minutes equals 2 call outs per minute).

SAMPLE:

Student's Name: Abby Gale Observer: Ms. Stella Dora - Teacher

Subject/Period: Reading/Language Arts class Time/ Length of Observation: 9:30-9:45 am

Behavior: Calling out

Behavior Definition (in specific, observable, measureable terms):

Abby will call out answers to questions without waiting to be called upon by the teacher.

Date	Time Started	Time Ended	Total Time	Tally	Total Occurrences	Rate
9/15/16	9:30 am	9:45	15 min.	//// //// //// ////	20	20/15min. = 1.3/ min.

*Source: Escambia County School District: Data Collection Guide: Addressing Student Behavior, A Positive Approach