Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Data Collection: Latency

Name of Student: _____ Observer: _____

Class/Teacher _____

Behavior observed: _____

Behavior Definition (in specific, observable, measurable terms):_____

_____

Date	Antecedent/Prompt/Cue	Time prompt given	Time behavior initiated	Latency	Notes
Total/Average Latency					

Latency Recording

Description:
Use latency recording when you are interested in how long a student takes to begin performing a particular behavior or task once the opportunity/prompt/request has been given. For example, if a teacher makes a request for a student to put an activity away, the observer would be interested in the length of time it takes for the student to comply with the request. Use this method if the opportunity and the behavior have a clear beginning and end. Do not use this method if the opportunities are continuous or if they start and stop rapidly.

Latency is a helpful measure if the goal is to reduce the amount of time it takes for a student to start and appropriate behavior or increase the amount of time between an environmental trigger and the occurrence of inappropriate behavior

Examples:
Following a teacher's directions, compliance with a task, starting an assignment, time between peer instigation and aggression

How to Collect the Data:

- Write down the behavior that you will be observing and its definition
- Note the antecedent (what happened immediately before the target behavior occurred
- Note when the opportunity is presented (e.g., request given) and when the student begins the response (e.g., compliance with request)
- Use a stopwatch to record the start time and stop time on the data sheet
- Calculate the average latency (average time it takes for the behavior to start (this is what you graph)
- Write any notes if applicable

Example: Abby's teacher assigned work 4 times during the observation. Abby took 60 seconds, 90 seconds, 35 seconds and 50 seconds to start the four assignments. So, 60 + 90 + 35 + 50 = 235/4 = 58.75. Abby took an average of 58.75 seconds to start her assignments during the observation period.

How to calculate the data:

Student's Name: __Abby Gale_____   Observer:__Ms. Stella Dora - Teacher_____
Behavior: __Follow teacher directions_____
Behavior Definition (in specific, observable, measureable terms): Follow teacher directions first time given within 30 seconds of request to start assignment/task/activity _____

Date	Antecedent	Start Time	End Time	Latency	Notes
9/15/17	Abby was asked to take out her math text book and begin working on class assignment	9:45.00	9:45.60	60 sec.	Sharpened her pencil before beginning assignment

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