

Duration Recording

Description:

Duration Recording is used when it is important to know how long a behavior occurs, by recording the time the behavior begins and ends. Use this method if the primary concern is the length of time the student engages in the behavior and the behavior has a distinct beginning and end or for those behaviors that occur at such a high rate that it would be difficult to get an accurate frequency count (i.e., number of taps during pencil, finger or toe tapping). Do not use this method if the behavior occurs with high frequency or the behavior starts and stops rapidly.

Examples:

Out of seat behavior, tantrums, how long a student can remain on task/off task, academic writing tasks, tapping

How to Collect the Data:

- Write down the behavior that you will be observing and its definition
- Use a stopwatch
- Record the antecedent (what happened immediately before the target behavior occurred)
- Record the start time and stop time on the data sheet
- Calculate the length of time the behavior lasted in minutes and or seconds (this is what you graph)
- Write any notes if applicable
- You may wish to note total time of observation period

How to calculate the data:

Duration (the length of time that the student engages in the behavior) can be summarized in two ways:

Average duration of behavior: Add the total duration and divide by the total occurrences

15 minutes divided by 3 tantrums = Average of 5 minutes per tantrum

Percentage of observation with behavior: If the observation periods vary in length, the percentage should be calculated by adding up the total number of sec/min/hrs that the behavior occurred (duration) during the observation period, dividing by the total observation time and multiplying by 100.

Example: During a 60 minute observation, Abby had 3 tantrums that lasted 5 minutes, 7 minutes and 3 minutes with a total duration of 15 minutes. (15 minutes divided by 60 minutes = .25 X 100 = 25%)
Tantrums occurred during 25% of the observation period.

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

Behavior: Tantrum

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

Tantrum: to include any crying (vocalizations (sounds or words) with or without tears), hitting self, and falling to the floor.

Date	Antecedent	Start Time	End Time	Duration	Notes
9/15/16	Abby was asked to stop playing on computer and return to her seat	9:45	9:50 min.	5 mins	Student had a bruise on her arm from hitting herself

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