

Selecting a Data Collection Method

What do you want to measure?

Do you want to know
how much or how often
the behavior occurs?

Use Frequency / Rate
Form (A)

Are you concerned about
the length of time?

Do you want to know the
time it takes to
START a task?

Use Latency Data Form (B)

FORM A

Frequency/Rate

Description:

These methods involve counting the number of times a behavior occurs in a specific time period. Use these methods if the behavior can be easily counted and the behavior has a clear beginning and end. Do not use these methods if the behavior is occurring at such a high rate that an accurate count is impossible (e.g. pencil tapping) or the behavior occurs for extended periods of time (e.g. 2 tantrums, but the duration of each tantrum is one hour.)

Examples:

Leaving seat, hitting another peer, throwing items, raising one's hand, yelling out an answer, asking to go to the bathroom, and being late to class.

How to collect the Data:

- Tally marks on a data sheet
- Tally marks on a dry erase board that are transferred to the data sheet
- Moving items from one pocket to a different pocket as each behavior occurs (e.g. paperclips, pennies, buttons)
- Place a removable sticker on your shirt or pants

DAILY FREQUENCY/RATE DATA SHEET

Student Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____
 Observer(s): _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Write the definition for each behavior in the box below. Each day, use tally marks to record the frequency of each behavior exhibited during the relevant time period. Only use this form if data is being collected for the same amount of time each day. Calculate the frequency or rate (frequency divided by time) the at bottom of the data sheet

	Behavior	Definition
Behavior 1		
Behavior 2		

		Target Student		Comparison Peer	
From	To	Behavior 1	Behavior 2	Behavior 1	Behavior 2
7:00	7:30				
7:30	8:00				
8:00	8:30				
8:30	9:00				
9:00	9:30				
9:30	10:00				
10:00	10:30				
10:30	11:00				
11:00	11:30				
11:30	12:00				
12:00	12:30				
12:30	1:00				
1:00	1:30				
1:30	2:00				
2:00	2:30				
2:30	3:00				
3:00	3:30				
3:30	4:00				
4:00	4:30				
4:30	5:00				
FREQUENCY					
RATE					

Form B

Latency

Description:

Use latency recording when you're interested in how long a student takes to begin performing a particular behavior once the opportunity has been presented. 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 the they start and stop rapidly.

Examples:

Starting an assignment, compliance with requests, and time between peer instigation and aggression.

How to Collect the Data:

To record latency data, note when the opportunity is presented (e.g. request given) and when the student begins the response (e.g. compliance with requests). This can be done by using a stopwatch and recording the start and stop times on a data sheet, or timer app and transferred to data sheet.

LATENCY RECORDING DATA SHEET

Student _____ Week: From _____

To _____

Observer_____

Behavior _____

Prompt _____

Behavior begins when _____

[illegible]

Average Latency (only complete at the end of each day) = Sum all "Total Time Elapsed" for the day and divide by the # of latencies recorded that day.