

Behavior Duration – Description, Procedures, & Example

If you are interested in measuring how long a behavior lasts you can use a duration recording method. Make sure that the behavior that you are observing has a clear beginning and a clear ending so that you can tell exactly when the behavior starts and when it finishes. You will also need some timing instrument such as a wall clock, wristwatch, or stopwatch.

Examples of behaviors that you might want to measure the length of include crying, being out of the classroom, or being in a particular location of the classroom.

Procedures

- * Make sure that you have your timing instrument available prior to beginning your observation
- * Each time that the behavior occurs:
 - Write down the date
 - Write down the time when the behavior began
 - Write down the time when the behavior stopped
 - Calculate the length of time that the behavior lasted and write it in minutes and/or seconds (**This is what you graph**)

Example

Behavior: Working individually

Behavior Definition: Sitting at desk, with an assignment on the desk, looking at assignment, not talking to peers. Once student looks up (not looking at assignment any more), the behavior has stopped. If student begins talking to peers while looking at assignment, behavior has stopped.

Date	Enter time when the behavior began	Enter time when behavior stopped	Length of time that the behavior lasted for
11/5	9:55 AM	10:06 AM	11 minutes
11/5	10:19 AM	10:28 AM	9 minutes
11/6	9:43 AM	9:51 AM	8 minutes
11/7	10:04 AM	10:19 AM	15 minutes
11/7	10:23 AM	10:33 AM	10 minutes