

Observation: Duration Recording

If you are interested in measuring how long a behavior lasts you can use a duration recording method. Make sure the behavior 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 a timing instrument such as a wall clock, wristwatch, or stopwatch.

Examples of behaviors 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 you have your timing instrument available prior to beginning your observation
- Each time the behavior occurs:
 1. record the date
 2. record the time the behavior began
 3. record the time the behavior stopped
 4. calculate the length of time the behavior lasted and record in minutes of seconds (this is the information you will graph).

EXAMPLE:

Behavior of Focus: Working individually

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

Date	Time Behavior Began	Time Behavior Ended	Total Time Behavior was Observed
11/5	10:19 a.m.	10:29 a.m.	10 minutes
11/5	10:55 a.m.	11:06 a.m.	11 minutes
11/6	10:43 a.m.	10:53 a.m.	10 minutes
11/7	10:04 a.m.	10:19 a.m.	15 minutes
11/7	10:23 a.m.	10:33 a.m.	10 minutes