

Event Recording - Description, Procedures, & Example

When the behavior that you are looking at can be easily counted Behavior Count may be the best method to use, as it does not require too much effort and may not interfere with ongoing activities. A behavior can be easily counted when:

- The behavior has a clear beginning and end so that you can easily tell when the behavior starts and when it ends, and
- It does not happen at such a high rate that it is hard to document.

There are several ways to keep track of behaviors as they occur: You can use a wrist counter; put paperclips, pennies, or buttons in one pocket and move them to a different “target” pocket as each behavior occurs; or make tally marks on a piece of paper. At the end of the observation period, look at your wrist counter, add up the number of items in the “target” pocket, or count the number of tally marks. This form uses tally marks. However, you can choose a different method to keep track of behaviors as they occur. Examples of behaviors that you can measure by counting include leaving one’s seat, raising one’s hand, yelling out an answer, asking to go to the bathroom, being late or being on time to class.

Procedures

Every time that you are observing the behavior:

- Write down the date
- Make a tally mark every time that the behavior occurs
- At the end of your observation period, total the number of tally marks for that day (if using a different method to keep track of behavior, enter the total in the Total column) **(This is what you graph)**

Example

Behavior: Leaving seat during class time

Behavior Definition: Being at least one foot away from desk/seat during class, anytime after tardy bell rings. Includes times when has asked for permission to leave seat.

Time Period: Math in class assignment from 9:00-9:30AM

Date	Time Period <i>When recording period begins and ends</i>	Recording <i>Tally every time that the behavior occurs</i>	Total number of times behavior occurred
11/5			7
11/6			4
11/7			6
11/8			5
11/9			8