**What is Baseline Data?**

Baseline data is a measurement of the behavior taken before interventions are started. Baseline data is important because it allows the team to compare the behavior before and after implementation of the behavior plan to determine if the interventions are working.

**Selecting the appropriate behavior collection method**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **System:** | **Description** | **When to Use** | **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** | **Examples** |
| EVENT RECORDING/FREQUENCY COUNT | Tallying/Counting the number of times the behavior occurs during a period of time | When behavior can be easily counted  | EasyCan take data while teachingCan translate into rate | Not helpful for very high rate behaviors or behaviors over extended periods of time  | Blurting out, Number of positive interactions with teacher |
| DURATION | How long a behavior lasts | When behavior occurs at a high rate or over extended periods of time | Tells duration and frequencyCan be translated to a percentageWorks for high rate behaviors or difficult to event record | May require outside observer. Use a stopwatch time instrument | Tantrums, sleeping, working on assignment, interacting with peer |
| LATENCY | How long it takes for a behavior to start after an event or command | When behavior has a clear beginning  | Tells how long until behavior is initiated | Requires outside observer. Use a stopwatch or time instrument | How long to start worksheet.How long until student follows direction. |
| INTERVAL RECORDING/TIME SAMPLING | When a behavior occurs within a given time interval  | When a behavior is continuous or difficult to record | Can help identify patterns of behaviorCan be translated to a percentage | Requires outside observer & undivided attention, provides estimate (less exact) | Working on assignment, talking to peers, hitting |

Adapted from University of Kansas

<http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/HCSDPsych/files/choosingadatacollectionsystem.pdf>