GUIDELINES FOR USING WHOLE INTERVAL RECORDING

WHEN TO USE IT

- When the behavior you are looking at is not easily counted,
- It is difficult to tell exactly when the behavior begins or when it ends,
- The behavior occurs at such a high rate that it is difficult to keep count on it, or
- When you are interested in measuring ongoing behaviors that you know will continue across intervals.
- Best for measuring a behavior you want to INCREASE.

HOW TO USE IT

- Define behavior
- Record total observation time
- Divide total observation time into same length intervals; write down the length of each interval. Note: All intervals need to be the same length. Intervals can be from a few seconds long to a few minutes long. Total observation time and length of intervals need to be the same each time that you observe.
- At the end of each interval, record whether the behavior occurred throughout the entire interval. Record as (+) or (0).

EXAMPLES

- Attending to instruction
- Writing
- Walking
- Reading
- Working on a given assignment
- Cooperative Play

ADVANTAGES

- It provides an estimate of duration of a behavior.
- Provides information about where behaviors are occurring or not occurring across observational sessions.

DISADVANTAGES

- Requires the observer’s undivided attention. (Teachers may need to ask someone else to observe and record data).

MATERIALS

- Stop Watch, wrist watch or MotivAider.

DATA LABEL

Percentage of intervals in which the behavior was observed to occur.

CONSIDERATIONS

- The shorter the interval, the more accurate the data will be, but the more work that will be required by the observer. Interval length should be set to approximate baseline rates of behavior (if we think behavior tends to occur every 10 minutes then 5-10 minute intervals makes sense).
- If the behavior occurs on a high frequency then the Momentary Time Sampling is indicated.