****

**Guidelines for Frequency & Rate Recording**

**When to Use:**

* When there is time to observe the student continuously
* Want to assess how many times a student engages in behavior

**How to Use**:

* Define behavior and observe
* When behavior occurs make a tally mark
* Add up all tally marks at the end of the observation (optional) divide by total observation time to get rate.

**Examples**

* Number of times student makes noises
* Rate per minute of student’s correct answers
* Number of time student used the restroom (if of equal length)

**Advantages**:

* Most direct measure – involves tally of each instance of behavior
* Conversion to a rate per minute standardizes for comparisons

**Disadvantages**:

* Requires continuous direct attention
* Behaviors must all last about the same length of time
* Not all behaviors can be counted (e.g., some happen too fast)

**Materials**:

* Some manner of recording frequency (e.g., tally on paper, move paper clips from one pocket to another, golf counter).
* Timing device if you wish to convert to rate.

**Considerations:**

* If the student’s behavior requires a signal or prompt then Frequency recording is inappropriate (see Opportunity Recording)
* If behaviors are of unequal duration then one of the Duration Recording Strategies or interval recording are indicated.
* Rate is calculated by dividing the total number of behaviors recorded by the total amount of time observed (e.g., 10 behavior in 5 minutes = rate of 2 per minute).

**Data Label**:

* Number of behaviors (frequency) or rate of behavior per minute (rate).

TASN Autism and Tertiary Behavior Supports is funded through Part B funds administered by the Kansas State Department of Education's Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services.  TASN Autism and Tertiary Behavior Supports does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.  The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:  Deputy Director, Keystone Learning Services, 500 E. Sunflower, Ozawkie, KS  66070, 785-876-2214.

Updated by TASN 10-28-15

Scott, T. M. (2015). Data Measurement Summaries: Frequency Recording Summary. Unpublished document. University of Louisville: Louisville, KY.