

Duration Recording

Duration recording requires the observer to measure the **total amount** of time that the child engages in the target behavior. The observer records the time at which the target behavior episode begins and the time at which it ends. For both event and duration recordings, the target behavior must be defined so that the behavior that marks the start of an episode is clearly specified as are the conditions that are considered to mark the end of the episode.

In the example of Sam and his temper tantrums, the teacher could record the length of time each of the five tantrums endured (e.g. 2'20", 5'45", 3'15", 8'05" and 1'50"). While this data could be averaged to tell us that Sam's tantrums last an average of 4 minutes,

30 seconds, the proper interpretation for behavioral **rate** data is to find the total amount of time that Sam was tantruming (21'15") and divide that by the total time spent observing (3 hours or 180 minutes) to find that Sam spent almost 12% of his preschool class engaged in temper tantrums. If part of Sam's IEP called for decreasing his

tantrum behavior, then both event and duration recording data would be useful as a pre- and post-intervention data.

Duration Recording Form

Child's Name _____ Date _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ # of Students in Class _____ # of Males _____

of Females _____ Observer _____ Title _____

Setting _____

**Target
Behavior:**

EPISODE	STARTING TIME	STOPPING TIME	TOTAL LENGTH OF EPISODE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Total			