

GUIDELINES FOR USING CUMULATIVE DURATION RECORDING

Cumulative Duration: involves recording the cumulative amount of time a behavior occurs within a specified observation period, or, record total time the individual is engaged in an activity, or needs to complete a task, without a minimum or maximum observation period.

WHEN TO USE IT

When the teacher wants to assess the total amount of time the student spends engaged in a behavior.

- Define behavior and observe.
- When behavior occurs start timer then stop it when behavior ends.
- Repeat throughout observation period.
- Record the total amount of time elapsed during observation (optional) divide by total observation time to get percent of time.

HOW TO USE IT

EXAMPLES

- Total amount of time student spends out of seat during math.
- Total amount of time student spends engaged with peers.
- Total amount of time student spends arguing with the teacher.

ADVANTAGES

Can measure the total time a student spent engaged in a specific behavior.

DISADVANTAGES

- Requires continuous observation
- Requires timing device

MATERIALS

Some kind of timer (stopwatch, iPad, smartphone)

CONSIDERATIONS

If the behavior occurs in very frequent brief episodes or if time becomes an issue for the observer then Momentary Time Sampling may be more appropriate.

DATA LABEL

Total amount of time engaged in behavior or percent of observed time engaged in behavior.

To view a short video, scan here:

