SCATTER PLOT DATA FORM

The Scatter Plot Data Form (*Johnston, 2010)* is a great method for documenting behaviors that occur repeatedly throughout the day (i.e., 2-3 times per hour), but are short in duration. The Scatter Plot Data Form allows you to track when and how often behaviors occur in a variety of contexts/settings. Each time the target behavior occurs, you simply put a tally in the corresponding time slot. At the end of each day, add up all the tallies to determine exactly when, where, and how often the target behavior occurs.

What kind of behaviors would this measure be useful in addressing?
The Scatter Plot Data Form is a useful tool for gathering information on behaviors that occur no more than 2-3 times per hour and only last a few seconds. Examples of behaviors to track using the Scatter Plot Data Form include: "out of area" behavior, speaking out of turn, "off task" behavior, and any form of verbal or physical aggression.

What if I am in the middle of teaching…how can I go about tracking the behavior without stopping my instruction?
One critical factor pertaining to the Scatter Plot Data Form is that *every occurrence of the target behavior must be documented within minutes of the incident* in order to have accurate data. If you let an extended period of time pass before documenting, you most likely will overestimate or underestimate the number of occurrences. Therefore, you may have to be a little creative when it comes to tracking a student's behavior, particularly if you are in the middle of teaching a class and don't have an aide to help track the behavior for you. One way to discreetly track a behavior is to transfer paperclips from one pocket to the other every time the behavior occurs. Then, when you have a break, count-up the total number of clips transferred in that period and document it on your form. Other ideas for tracking behavior discreetly include: placing a strip of making tape on your sleeve and making tally marks on that, placing strips of paper in a jar on your desk, using a small pocket counter, or folding a piece of paper in half every time the behavior occurs.

What are some examples of goals that would be appropriate for this measure?
The Scatter Plot Data Form can be used to collect information on a variety of goals that aim to track and decrease problematic behavior. Examples of such goals include:
Throughout the school day, CJ will reduce speaking out of turn to 5 times for two consecutive weeks.
Throughout the school day, JP will reduce physical aggression to zero times for four consecutive weeks.

SCATTER PLOT DATA FORM

Scatter Plot Data Form

Record each occurrence of the target behavior by day and class/activity. Total the number of occurrences each day and calculate an average for the day or week.

Student: __Jason_____ Dates: ____10/03/2011 - 10/07/2011_____

Behavior Description: __Removing himself entirely from the physical space he is assigned to for 30 seconds or more.__

Start and Stop Time: The behavior starts at the point Jason is outside of his assigned physical space for more than 30sec. The behavior stops when Jason returns to his assigned physical space for five minutes or more.

Class/Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homeroom				I	
Math	III	I	II		III
Reading		I		III	I
Special					
Lunch					
Science	I		II		
Social Studies		I			I
TOTALS	**4**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**5**

Comments: _____

_____

From *Data Without Tears: How to Write Measurable Goals and Collect Meaningful Data,* 2010 by Terri Chiara Johnston, Champaign, IL: Research Press (800-519-2707, www.researchpress.com

	A	B	C
1	3-Oct	4	
2	4-Oct	3	
3	5-Oct	4	
4	6-Oct	4	
5	7-Oct	5	
6	10-Oct		2
7	11-Oct		2
8	12-Oct		3
9	13-Oct		2
10	14-Oct		1

JP's Scatter Plot Data