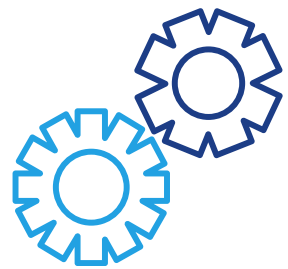# DATA COLLECTION METHODS IN ABA

FREQUENCY/RATE

Frequency provides a simple count of the behavior that occurs, but rate reflects the frequency of the behavior that occurs over a period of time. To calculate rate, divide the frequency by the duration of the session (i.e. minutes or hours). Rate is expressed as a number per unit of time (i.e. 6 instances per hour or 12 instances per minute).

DURATION

Duration data measure how long a behavior lasts from beginning to end. When defining behaviors to be collected by duration recording, professionals must identify an onset and offset to ensure accurate measurement. A stopwatch or timer in a data collection app provides the most reliable duration data.
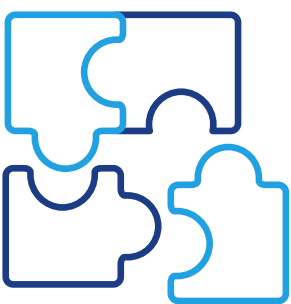
LATENCY

Latency measures the time between the discriminative stimuli (SD) and the response. This measure allows you to evaluate the speed of responding to a particular stimulus. For example, you may use latency data to increase the rate of responding during DTT (by decreasing latency) or you may use it to decrease the rate of responding prior to hearing the full SD during DTT (by increasing latency).

PARTIAL INTERVAL

Partial interval data breaks the session into equal parts (intervals). Record if the behavior occurred at any point during that interval. Since the behavior only needs to occur once or for a small fraction of the interval, partial interval data overestimates the occurrence of behavior.
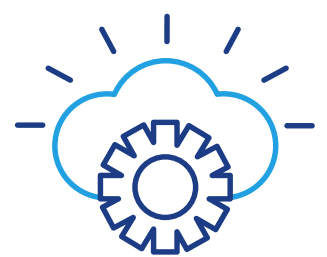
WHOLE INTERVAL

Whole interval data breaks the session into equal parts (intervals). Record if the behavior occurs throughout the whole interval. Since the behavior must occur for the entire amount of the interval, this method underestimates the occurrence of the target behavior.

MOMENTARY TIME SAMPLING

Momentary time-sampling takes a quick snapshot of whether or not a behavior occurs. Identify an appropriate interval based on baseline data. When the interval is over, record whether or not the behavior is occurring at that time. This data collection method neither over nor underestimates the behavior; however, because not every instance of the behavior is recorded, the data are far less accurate than continuous data collection.

UNDERSTAND DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOUR ABA PROGRAM!

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA COLLECTION METHOD FOR MY ABA PROGRAM?

Go to masteraba.com for more.