

Data Collection – Probe Data

Highlights of How to Do
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Qualitative Data Collection:

1. Define your focus/question of interest
 - a. Behaviors
 - b. Context
2. Decide the context for observation
 - a. Decide if any arrangements need to be ensure sampling of desired behaviors (creating opportunities)
 - i. Setting, materials, people involved, activities, etc.
 - b. Determine length of each observation and number of visits (Be realistic)
 - c. Make plans as appropriate (permission, consulting, etc.)
3. Collect Data
 - a. Thick Description (objective and subjective information) – field notes (describe the setting along with the performances)
 - b. Interpretation – patterns/themes (consider participants, and verbal, nonverbal behaviors), be factual
 - c. Conclusions/Summary-Making sense of the patterns
4. Consider when to collect these data – see below under quantitative

Quantitative Data Collection

1. Setting up your coding taxonomy:
 - a. Decide what behaviors are of interest for each of the following:
 - i. Target
 - ii. Generalization
 - iii. Control
 - b. Define the specific behaviors in operational terminology – can two independent observers identify each behavior you want to code
 - i. Momentary Behaviors
 - ii. State Behaviors

(How do you define – do some trial observation of performance, go to your text books and journals, be logical – consider what makes up the behavior) (This will have a qualitative feel to it, but the goal is to define behaviors so that they are identifiable and measurable by some quantitative measure).

- c. Decide if frequency and/or time is important to know about the behaviors of interest
 - d. Decide the types of measures you will be using (remember each has several variations)
 - i. Event recording – frequency
 - ii. Duration – time
 - iii. Interval Recording
2. Create a data collection sheet
 - a. Consider type of measure
 - b. Consider ease of use

3. Decide how to collect the data (from naturalistic to contrived)
 - a. Manner
 - b. Setting and Situation
 - c. Participants
 - d. Client Awareness
4. Set up data collection procedures – ensuring opportunities
5. Determine when to collect data
 - a. Periodic and systematic
 - b. Expectations for change – and capturing change through these measures
 - c. Feasibility