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
   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