

## Observation Methods

Observation Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Checklists	A checklist allows several behaviors to be recorded in a short amount of time	If the checklist is not completed by more than one person consistency may be an issue.
Anecdotal records	Anecdotal Records allow an accurate description of a specific event	It does not allow a percentages/ progress to be obtained and tracked
Interviewing	Gives specific data on how a person views a specific situation	It does not allow for percentages to be obtained and tracked.
Frequency counts or duration records	Duration recording allows you to look at how long a specific behavior lasts. If done on a regular basis it can provide good data for evaluating interventions	You can only record a single behavior at a time and it takes a lot of time to complete an observation
Narrative Description	Provides specific description of an event(s). Allows details to be recorded	Takes time to complete documentation and does not give you data that can be used to evaluate interventions/goals and objectives
Time Sampling	Gives unbiased data that can be recorded across settings. Able to compare a student to peer group and record multiple behaviors at one time.	Recorder needs to be constant with behaviors and observations for data to be valid. Observations should be at least 20 minutes in length.
Event Sampling	Allows data to be tracked over a long period of time by documenting each time a behavior happens. Multiple behaviors can be observed at one time.	Student needs to be monitored closely by recorder for a long period of time. Data may not be as valid since opportunities may be missed by recorder.