

Measurement Competency (brief sample)

Operationally define two target behaviors and collect 1) rate data and 2) duration data across at least 3 consecutive sessions

PURPOSE (include operational definitions and social significance of the target behaviors)

The purpose of this competency was to collect baseline data for the target behaviors of throwing/swiping and tantrums for my 5 year old client.

Throwing/Swiping: any actual or attempted swipe or throw of objects (not including ball play or other appropriate play). This is a priority behavior targeted for reduction as it may cause damage to property and is dangerous to others in her environment.

Tantrum: any instance of crying with tears; may also include arching body and dropping to the floor. This behavior prevents her from fully accessing the learning environment. Reducing the duration of each episode of tantrum behavior and assisting her with self-regulation strategies is the main priority for this client.

METHOD (include participants & setting, rationale for data collection system used)

Participants and Setting

The client used for this competency is a 5 year old girl who has participated in ABA services for a total of one and a half years. She has a diagnosis of ASD and receives 25 hours per week of ABA therapy. Baseline data were collected during one on one center based ABA sessions. The room contained a small table and chairs, a couch, and shelves with several toys.

Baseline Data Collection

Baseline data were collected for three consecutive 2 hour sessions for both throwing/swiping and tantrums.

Throwing/Swiping: frequency data were collected across three 2 hour sessions. Rate per hour data were then calculated for each session.

Tantrum: duration per occurrence data were collected across three 2 hour sessions. Duration per tantrum occurrence was graphed in order to accurately depict the duration of each instance of tantrum behavior across the session.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (include tables and graphs of baseline data for each target behavior and a brief conclusion)

Throwing/Swiping: the client displayed 10 instances of this behavior the first two hour session, 8 instances the second session, and 16 instances the third session. The total calculated rate per hour for each session was 5, 4, and 8 respectively. The average hourly rate across all three sessions was 5.67.

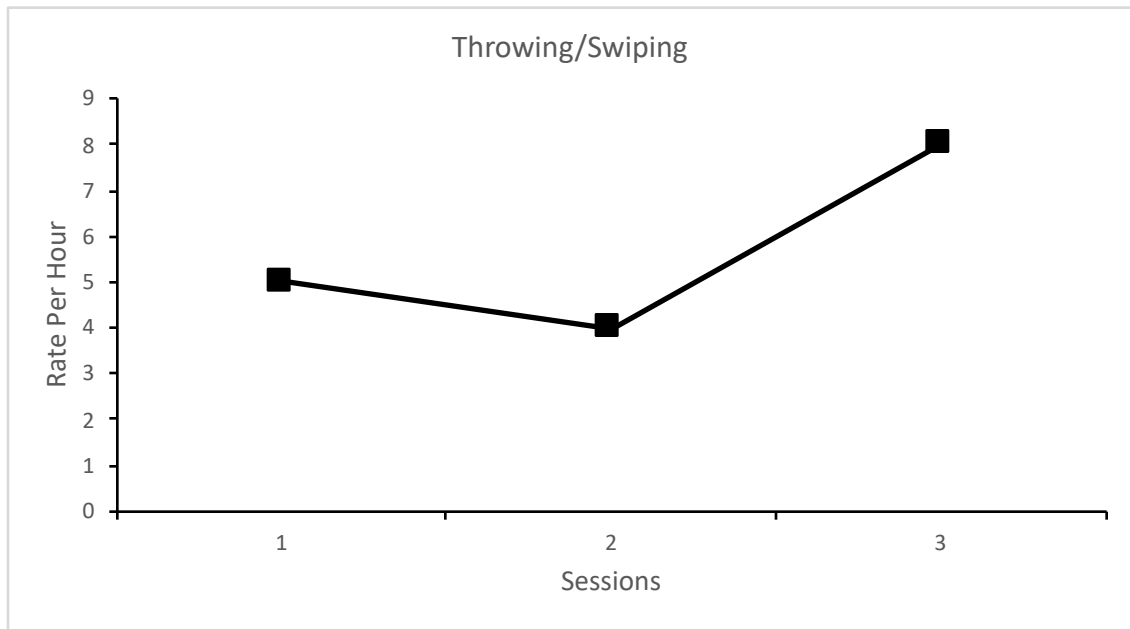
Rate of Throwing/Swiping Across Three 2 Hour Sessions

Session 1	10
Session 2	8
Session 3	16

Rate Per Hour of Throwing/Swiping Across Three 2 Hour Sessions

Session 1	5
Session 2	4

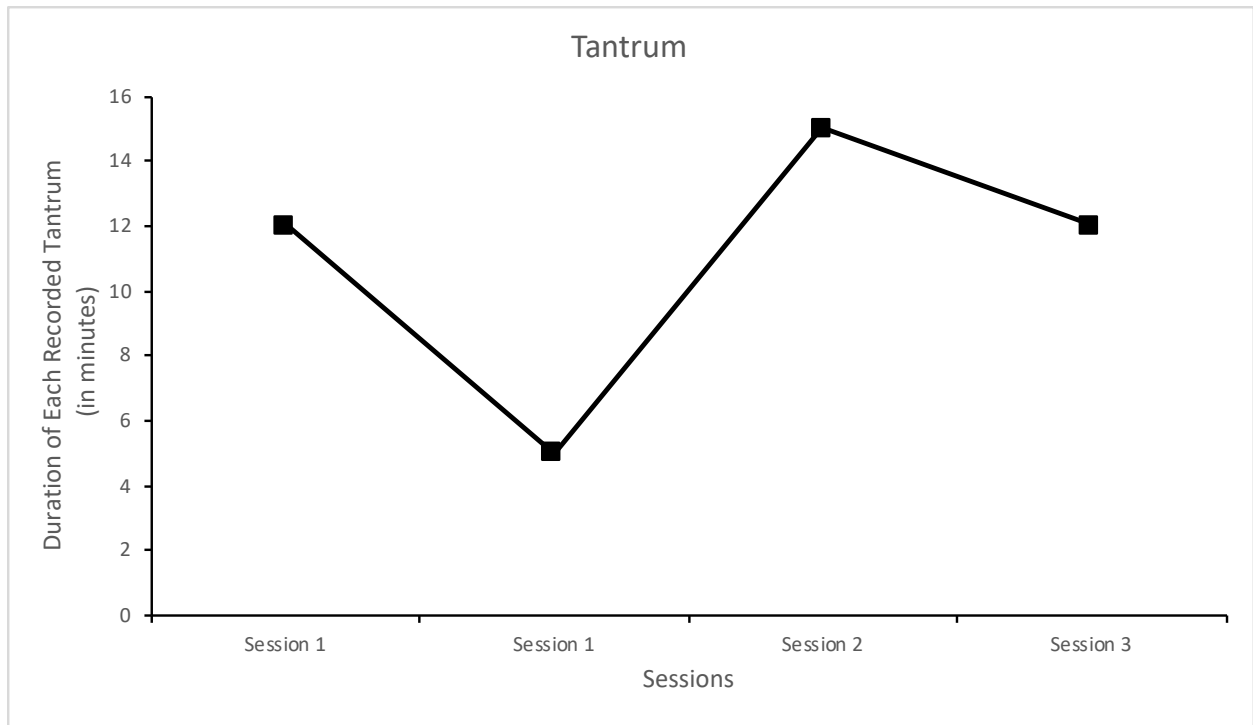
Session 3	8
Average Rate Per Hour	5.67



Tantrum: the client engaged in four tantrums across three 2 hour sessions with a mean duration of 11 minutes (range of 5 minutes to 15 minutes). The duration of each tantrum was graphed as a separate data point below.

Duration (in minutes) Per Tantrum Across Three 2 Hour Sessions

Session 1	12 minutes	5 minutes
Session 2	15 minutes	
Session 3	12 minutes	



This competency focused on operationally defining target behaviors, determining appropriate measurement systems, and collecting baseline data on two targeted behavior reduction goals for a child with ASD.