

Psy 353 Learning and the Young Child

Schwartz

Activity in the Frequency of Behavioral Occurrence

Instructions:

For this activity, you will have an opportunity to observe children's behavior under different conditions. You are to designate six children who are interacting in a larger group. By "designate", I mean pick them to watch out of the total children in the group. Then, spend 30 minutes watching for incidents reflecting five defined behaviors-- namely, withdrawal, sharing, crying, laughter, speaking. Spend five minutes observing each child. You are to conduct your observations by using a five- minute interval time sampling format to record the frequency of occurrence of each of the behaviors. The format is simple. Just use one tally mark for each time the behavior occurs within a 5-minute time interval. For example, if the child you are watching laughs four times within the five minutes, record four tally marks in the time interval. You are to observe two sets of six children. The first set will be found in a comparatively mildly stressful situation for mothers and children--a waiting room of a pediatrician, or a pediatric dentist, etc. The second set will be found in a potentially positive situation for mothers and children, such as a park on a weekend. Before you observe, make certain to operationally define each of the behaviors. Once you have obtained the "data" on your observed children, you are to analyze your samples for frequency of occurrence. Your analysis should contain a chart of the responses you were given, and an interpretive discussion of the results. Pay attention to elements like: observational learning, self-efficacy, social information processing, role taking, perspective taking, humor. Make certain to read relevant chapters in Bjorklund before you do your observation. Finally, make certain your report is well structured, double-space type-written and contains, as an appendix, your actual data. And, most of all, have fun! You should find it a fascinating experience.

Data Sheet for the Study of Frequency of Behavioral Occurrence

Experimenter: _____ Situation: _____
Place: _____ Date: _____

Time Interval	Behaviors				
	Withdrawal	Sharing	Crying	Laughter	Speech
1st 5 minutes					
2nd 5					

minutes					
3rd 5 minutes					
4th 5 minutes					
5th 5 minutes					
6th 5 minutes					
TOTALS					
Child 1:					
Child 2:					
Child 3:					
Child 4:					
Child 5:					
Child 6:					