

## Vignette for Data Collection Activity

Using the story below, complete the

- ABC Chart Form,
- The Scatter Plot Form, and
- Flexible Data Sheet [codes - ABC]
- Functional Behavior Assessment Observation Form.

After completing the various observation forms, check your responses with the key provided and/or with the instructor's key. Your responses may not match up entirely with the key because the data collection process is subject to some interpretation. Overall, you should see three patterns regarding:

Time of day \_\_\_\_\_

Activity \_\_\_\_\_

The function of specific behaviors \_\_\_\_\_

### Story

George attends school from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Lunch is from 12:30 to 1:00 PM. Mrs. England is George's teacher, and she works with him throughout the day. Mrs. England feels that George's problem behaviors have increased during the past few weeks, and has decided to gather some data over a five-day period, beginning on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and ending on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, to determine if there are any patterns to these behaviors.

The behaviors that she is concerned about are: Humming loudly, telling inappropriate jokes, putting head on table, refusing to participate, and throwing books. Information gathered from interviews points to these behaviors being more likely to occur on days when George has not slept well the night before and/or when he has a head ache.

During the five-day period of observation, this is what happened:

#### Day 1 - February 8

Around 9:35 AM, while Mrs. England was lecturing to the class about fractions and decimals, George put his head on his desk, as if going to sleep. Mrs. England tried to engage him in the class discussion by asking him to participate (9:38 AM). However, George ignored her requests, and continued with his head on his desk. After asking him to participate a couple of times, Mrs. England gave up and ignored him. Later George stated that he had not slept well the night before.

Later in the afternoon, at 2:40 p.m., while the class had free time to finish class work, start on homework, or to work with their study partners, Mrs. England was at her desk working one-on-one tutoring with students that were falling behind. George wasn't scheduled to work with Mrs. England for at least another 30 minutes. However, as time passed, it became apparent that Mrs. England might not have time to work with George on that day. George started humming loudly. He was ignored by peers and teacher.

Adapted with permission from: Zarcone, J., Freeman, R., Smith, C., Wickham, D., & Kidwell, P. (2002). (Module 5) Functional behavioral assessment [Online]. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas UCDD. Available: <http://www.kipbs.lsi.ku.edu>

About 15 minutes later, his study partner suggested that they go over the assigned math sheets. George said “No” and then threw his book at this partner. His study partner went back to his desk and Mrs. England told George that if he did it again he would be sent to the office.

#### Day 2 - February 9

At around 9:40 AM, George again was humming loudly during math lecture. Mrs. England and peers ignored him.

Ten minutes later, when Mrs. England called on George to answer a question, George proceeded to tell an inappropriate joke about religion, which the class laughed at. When Mrs. England insisted that George answer the question, he threw his book at her (9:55 AM). As a result, she told him she was very disappointed with him and sent him to the office.

At around 11:00 AM, George was sent to see the school counselor. Even though the counselor tried to get George to talk and interact with him by asking him several questions, George refused to interact with the counselor, ignoring his questions and putting his head on the desk, leaving it there the entire time he was in the counselor’s office. After about 15 minutes of trying, the counselor sent George back to his class.

During class free time that afternoon, at 2:45 PM, George was alone working when he started humming loudly. Mrs. England asked George several times to stop. About 5 minutes later, George finally stopped humming, and no one said anything.

#### Day 3 - February 10

At about 12:45 PM, while eating lunch with his peers, George told several inappropriate jokes about sex. At first, the peers laughed. However, after about five minutes, the peers were no longer laughing at the jokes, and began to ignore George. Suddenly, George threw his lunch tray on the floor, and walked away. His peers were surprised and just looked at him.

At 3:20 PM, as the class putting things away to get ready for dismissal, George told two inappropriate jokes about sex. No one laughed at them, and the class went on as usual.

At about 3:30 PM, since George had not been helping to clean up, Mrs. England asked George to wipe off the chalkboards. George said “No”. Mrs. England then told him that if he didn’t do it, he would have to stay after school (3:35 PM). George then put his head on his desk and ignored Mrs. England. After about 10 minutes, Mrs. England finally said, “Okay, you can go home now.”

#### Day 4 - February 11

At around 9:30 AM, George put his head on the desk during math lecture. Seeing this, Mrs. England requested that George complete his class work. As soon as George heard the request (9:32 AM), George threw his book across the room, saying, “Leave me alone. I only slept 2 hours last night.” Mrs. England responded “Go sit in the hallway until you calm down.”

That day, while sitting with his peers during lunch (12:45 PM), George told two inappropriate jokes about sex. His peers laughed loudly.

During free time (2:49 PM), while working alone, George began humming loudly. Mrs. England told him to stop twice, but he ignored her and kept humming (2:50 PM). Finally, Mrs. England told George that if he stopped she would let him go next for one-to-one tutoring time with her. George stopped humming (2:51) PM, and Mrs. England stated, "You are next."

Day 5 - February 12

During math lecture (9:40 AM), Mrs. England asked George a question. George ignored the question, put his head on his desk, and spent the rest of the period with his head on his desk. After this, Mrs. England ignored him.

While eating lunch with his peers (12:50 PM), George told two inappropriate jokes about sex. His peers laughed and asked him to tell some more jokes (12:55 PM). George told two more jokes, and his peers continued to laugh.