A-B-C Data Collection - Simplified

Instructions for using the form:

BEFORE OBSERVING:

- Define the problematic behavior: The definition should be so simple that anyone can read it and understand what the behavior looks and/or sounds like. This ABC form is for only ONE TARGETED BEHAVIOR at a time.
- Plan when and where you will observe the individual: You may already have noticed that the behavior happens more often at a particular time of day, in a particular place or with a particular person. Try to collect at least 5 documented instances of the behavior on your completed data sheet.

WHILE OBSERVING:

- Simply check the appropriate box in each column for the ANTECEDENT (what happened before the behavior) and the CONSEQUENCE (what happened immediately after the behavior).

AFTER YOU HAVE THE DATA:

- Review the data. Some general rules of thumb are as follows:
  - If the consequence of the behavior is typically that a task, demand or situation is delayed or removed, the function of the behavior is most likely ESCAPE
  - If the consequence of the behavior is typically that attention is provided (whether it be in the form of a verbal reprimand, praise and acknowledgement or feedback from peers), the function of the behavior is most likely ATTENTION
  - If the consequence of the behavior is typically that the person engaging in the behavior gets something, the function of the behavior is most likely TANGIBLE (or access to THINGS)
  - If the consequence of the behavior is typically unclear or varies and there is no consistently clear antecedent, the function of the behavior may be SENSORY.

Please be advised that is best practice to have a Board Certified Behavior Analyst complete a full Functional Assessment for problematic behavior. A-B-C data is one type of data collection and a fairly simple one! This data sheet is provided to you as a free resource to help you get started. Share this information with a Behavior Analyst to help you develop a plan of action to help the individual.

For more resources, tips and downloadables visit www.simplifybehavior.com

![SIMPLIFY BEHAVIOR - ABA & EDTECH CONSULTING]

Definition of Behavior: _____

Child:_____   **Person Collecting Data:** _____

Date	Time	What happened before? ANTECEDENT	What happened after? CONSEQUENCE	Possible Function?
	▫ 7 a - 11 a ▫ 11 a - 3 p ▫ 3 p - 7 p ▫ 7 p - 11 p ▫ _____	▫ Asked to do something ▫ Told "No" or" Stop" ▫ Had to wait to get something ▫ Something taken away ▫ _____	▫ Adult or sibling/ peer attention ▫ Child or student gets what they want ▫ Demand or situation is delayed or avoided ▫ Unclear ▫ _____	▫ Escape ▫ Attention ▫ Tangible (Access) ▫ Sensory ▫ _____
	▫ 7 a - 11 a ▫ 11 a - 3 p ▫ 3 p - 7 p ▫ 7 p - 11 p ▫ _____	▫ Asked to do something ▫ Told "No" or" Stop" ▫ Had to wait to get something ▫ Something taken away ▫ _____	▫ Adult or sibling/ peer attention ▫ Child or student gets what they want ▫ Demand or situation is delayed or avoided ▫ Unclear ▫ _____	▫ Escape ▫ Attention ▫ Tangible (Access) ▫ Sensory ▫ _____
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