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Assessment of Behavioral and Social-Emotional Functioning

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Direct Observation: Narrative and Event Recording

Narrative Observation Data

At 11:00 am, recess began. Bob walked out in line with his class on the sidewalk. In line Bob pushed Susie. When instructed to keep hands to himself he did so. Then, the children lined up to be dismissed to the playground. While waiting in line, Bob kicked Fred. The direction to keep hands and feet to himself was repeated. Bob followed the direction. At 11:05 am the children went to the playground. Bob ran over to the swings and pushed Dan out of the way to get the last available swing. The direction was repeated to keep hands and feet to himself. Bob stayed on the swings for 5 minutes. At 11:10 am, Bob got off of the swings and began to run around the playground. First, he played on the monkey bars and swung back and forth. While on the monkey bars, Bob swung to hit Lisa's head. The direction to keep hands and feet to himself was repeated. Next, he went down the slide multiple times. Then, he climbed on the rock wall. Rick was on the rockwall first, but Bob shoved him and used it instead. The direction to keep hands and feet to himself was repeated. Recording concluded at 11:15 am.

Definition of Target Behavior and Rationale for Selection

The target behavior for Bob is aggression. In measurable, observable terms, aggression is any physical motion that causes harm to another person, including (but not limited to) hitting, kicking, shoving, and biting. A non-example of aggression is attempting to kick a soccer ball, but missing and hitting someone's leg by mistake. The rationale for this target behavior selection is because this behavior is negatively impacting the safety of other children around Bob, as seen with his behavior pushing, kicking, hitting, and shoving. Before focusing on other behaviors, it is important to ensure the safety of himself and others first.

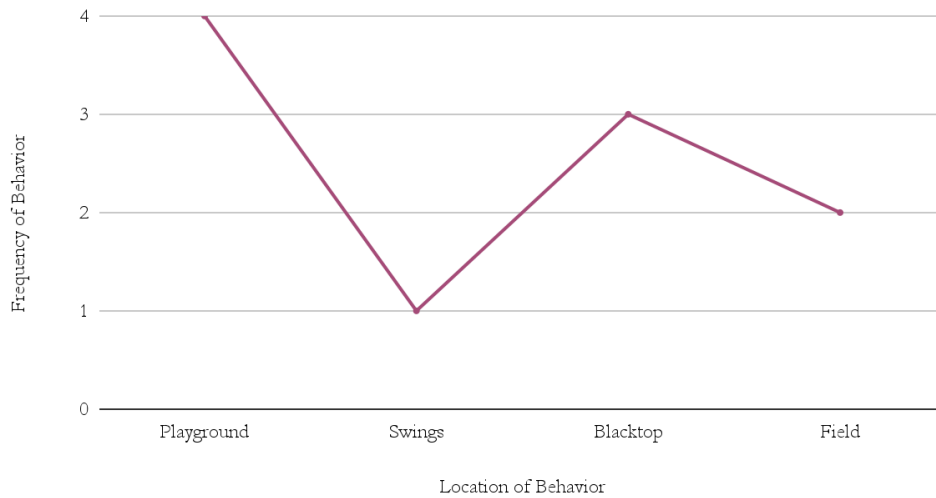
Recording Method and Rationale for Selection

The recording method chosen for Bob's behaviors was frequency data taken down on the recorder's notes app on their phone as a tally mark, and placed within a corresponding column regarding the location of it happening (playground, swings, blacktop, field). Frequency data was chosen since the behaviors are not long, but more so short and recurring. Frequency data would be the most accurate way to evaluate the intensity of Bob's behaviors. The recorder recorded data on the notes app on their phone in order to ensure Bob was not aware of the recording taking place so as to avoid any threats to validity such as the Hawthorne effect. The location was focused on in addition to the frequency of the behaviors to determine if there was any area of the school yard where Bob most frequently displayed aggressive behavior.

Summary of Findings

The event recording took place at an elementary school in Long Valley, New Jersey in the school yard between the hours of 11:00-11:30 am. Within the 15 minutes of data collection following the initial narrative reporting, Bob showed 10 counts of aggression. 4 counts of aggression occurred on the playground, 1 occurred on the swings, 3 occurred on the blacktop, and 2 occurred on the field. At recess, second and third grade play together and share the school yard. Bob is in third grade. In total, there are 114 children in the school yard during recess, with 10 adults supervising. The playground and blacktop are the most densely populated areas of the school yard, between the basketball and four-corners games on the black top and various playground equipment in a condensed area on the wood chips. The swings are a row of 8 swings, and children are expected to wait 10 feet away from the swings for a turn to practice patience and not get hurt. The field is a wide open space separating the playground, swings, and blacktop. The field is the only area of the school yard that children are allowed to run on.

Graph 1: Frequency and Location of Bob's Aggressive Behaviors



The maximum amount of the target behavior occurred on the playground (4), the minimum amount of the target behavior occurred on the swings (1), and the mean of behaviors between the four areas was 2.5 behaviors. It is the belief of the recorder that the most behaviors occurred in highly populated areas where high preferred items are not readily available to Bob, such as waiting a turn to slide or climb the rock wall. This is compared to areas that are less densely populated, such as the field, which require less waiting to participate in the preferred activity. It is also possible that there were less amounts of aggressive behaviors in areas such as the swings and field since there were less people to aggress against. It is also in the opinion of the recorder that both possibilities could even occur concurrently.