

# Selecting and Tracking Through Data: Intensity Data

**Intensity Data Described:** Intensity data measures the magnitude or level of a behavior.



**Think like this:** Consider intensity data as a person's perception of how extreme a behavior was. Standardization is achieved by using a well-defined scale and/or preferably collecting data from the same person or even the child.

## Common Uses of Intensity Data:

Intensity data is often used with other data collection methods, such as frequency or duration, to record changes in how extreme a behavior is. A few examples:

- The intensity of a child's behavioral outburst.
- How adamantly a child refuses to participate in a task.



## Data (Numbers) Collected:

A Scale showing range - Intensity data may, for example, include symbols like smiley or frowny faces or a scale using numbers from 1-3 (as many as necessary). Carefully define how each level is distinct. For example, you might start by defining a mild behavior, and then another behavior added to the first would represent moderate behavior. Magnitude may include changes in voice volume, physical aggression, or other observable behaviors that can represent a change in magnitude.

## Sample Data Form

Describe the task or behavior: when frustrated, Oliver covers his ears and screams/cries, very loudly. We need to reduce the intensity of his cries and screams to not interrupt the neighboring classes. (might also collect duration data)

Goal: Given emotional management strategies, Oliver will reduce the intensity of his crying and screaming outbursts to an average of less than 1.5 intensity level/week for three consecutive weeks.

Define Intensity level 1: Oliver's vocalizations disrupt (or would disrupt) only students seated close to him.

intensity Intensity level 2: Oliver's vocalizations disrupt his entire class.

levels: Intensity level 3: Oliver's vocalizations can be heard by individuals outside of his class.

Date/Time	Setting and/or Task	Intensity Level	Notes	Person Recording
1/19/24	Math class - working on classroom assignment	3	Oliver cried out loud at his desk	Mrs. Smith - para
1/21/24	Science class - reading assignment in textbook	3	Oliver cried while sitting in the corner of the room	Mrs. Smith - para
1/22/24	Science class - while working on a vocabulary assignment	2	Oliver cried in the hallway and noticed other children staring at him	Mrs. Smith - para



# Intensity Goal Data Collection Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Data Collected By: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the task or behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Define intensity levels: Intensity level 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Intensity level 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Intensity level 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Intensity level 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time	Setting and/or Task	Intensity Level	Notes	Person Recording