

Essential Steps for Data Analysis and Triangulation

1. Organize Data

- Sort by source (e.g., record, interview, observation)
- Group by type (antecedents, behaviors, consequences, setting event, context)
- Confirm multiple data sources

2. Identify Antecedent Patterns

- Look for consistent actions that cue the behavior (e.g. task demands, teacher/peer interaction)
- Check if patterns appear across settings and observers

3. Identify Consequence Patterns

- Look for consistent responses (consequences) following the behavior
- Determine whether consequences allow the student to gain or escape (function)

4. Cross-Check Data

- Examine alignment between identified antecedents and consequences within direct observations and indirect data gathered (e.g. student records, interviews)

5. Triangulate Sources

- Compare behavior patterns across data sources
- Confirm at least three different sources point to the same function and support the same hypothesis

Consistent indirect and direct data and/or clear patterns = Use data to develop a hypothesis.

Indirect and direct data inconsistent and/or patterns not clear? = Collect more data until patterns align.

6. Formulate Hypothesis

- Write a clear statement: 'When [antecedent] occurs, the student does [behavior] to [function].'

- Ensure the hypothesis is observable, measurable, and testable.

7. Validate Hypothesis

- Review findings with IEP team or intervention team;
- Consider other contributing factors (e.g. medical, developmental expectations) and collaborate with others, as needed

8. Use Data to Inform Intervention

- Use the hypothesis statement to guide intervention
- Identify and plan instruction for related skill deficits (e.g. academics, communication, executive functioning).

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