ESCRIBE CODE

Observers using ESCRIBE record four types of variables during a typical session of data collection. The four types of variables are:

1. **File identifier variables.** These are data to be used for data management only and are recorded only at the beginning of an observation. This information is embedded in the filename.

2. **Stationary variables.** These variables (such as the setting or number of adults) change relatively slowly during the course of a classroom day and are recorded at the beginning of the observation period and then afterwards only if a change occurs in one of them.

3. **Ecobehavioral variables.** These are the core of the observational system. Ecobehavioral variables describe the instructional environment(s), the teaching person(s), their behaviors and languages, and the target student’s behaviors and languages. A momentary time sampling system is used to record these variables (Powell, Martindale & Kulp, 1975).

4. **Stop code variables.** These variables indicate the reason the recording of the ecobehavioral variables has stopped. These codes are not part of the time sampling assessment and are recorded on a separate form. They provide descriptive information.

**FILE IDENTIFIER VARIABLES**

A filename is a series of letters and numbers. **It must begin with a letter** and may be followed by up to 7 additional characters. The letters and numbers contain information about the target student, project, school, and the year. The filename will be supplied by the project director or observer coordinator. For example, a filename such as BG1021A indicates the project as (B) Bilingual. The "G" indicates the particular school in which the student was observed, and in this case, "G" indicates Gardner. The number "1" identifies the target student as a special education student (a number 2 will identify the student as a regular education student); while the numbers "02" indicates the subject's identification number. The number "1" in the sixth position documents this observation as having taken place in 1991. The "A" indicates the particular wave or cycle of observations, in this case, wave "A" (range of A-Z).
STATIONARY VARIABLES

A. SETTING - Location of the Target Student:
   1. (RC) Regular Classroom
   2. (SP) Special Education Classroom; Self-Contained
   3. (RR) Resource Room
   4. (IL) Instructional Lab
   5. (LY) Library
   6. (PA) Performing Arts Room
   7. (THR) Therapy Room
   8. (HA) Hall
   9. (AUD) Auditorium
   10. (GYM) Gymnasium
   11. (OTH) Other

B. INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL - Program design used for providing instruction:
   1. (NL) Native Language Instruction/Immersion
   2. (FB) Full Bilingualism
   3. (TB) Transitional Bilingualism with English as a Second Language
   4. (SI) Structured Immersion
   5. (ESL) English as a Second Language
   6. (EI) English Immersion
   7. (OTH) Other

C. NUMBER OF ADULTS - Actual count of adults present interacting or monitoring the students.

D. NUMBER OF STUDENTS - Actual count of students within the setting being observed.

ECOBEHAVIORAL VARIABLES

INSTRUCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT CODES:

A. ACTIVITY - Subject area in which the student is working:
   1. (R) Reading
   2. (M) Math
   3. (S) Spelling
   4. (H) Handwriting
   5. (L) Language
   6. (SC) Science
   7. (SS) Social Studies
   8. (BM) Class Business/Management
   9. (TN) Transition
   10. (MU) Music
   11. (AC) Arts/Crafts
   12. (PE) Physical Education/Exercise
13. (FT) Free Time
14. (DIS) Discipline/Time Out
15. (NO) No Activity
16. (CT) Can't Tell
17. (OTH) Other

B. MATERIALS - Actual items or materials the student is using:
   1. (B) Books
   2. (WB) Workbooks
   3. (WS) Worksheets
   4. (PP) Paper and Pencil
   5. (CP) Computer
   6. (OM) Other Media/Manipulables
   7. (EQ) Exercise Equipment
   8. (NM) No Material

C. LANGUAGE - MATERIAL - Language of the material being used by the target student:
   1. (E) English
   2. (NE) Not English
   3. (MX) Mixed Languages
   4. (NL) No Language
   5. (CT) Can't Tell

D. INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPING - Instructional Arrangement:
   1. (WCI) Whole Class Instruction
   2. (SGI) Small Group Instruction
   3. (1:1) One_to_one Instruction
   4. (II) Independent Instruction
   5. (NI) No Instruction

TEACHER CODES:

A. TEACHER DEFINITION - Who is the teacher?:
   1. (RT) Regular Education Teacher
   2. (ST) Special Education Teacher
   3. (LT) Language Education Teacher
   4. (SUB) Substitute Teacher
   5. (A) Aide/Paraprofessional
   6. (RSP) Related Services Personnel
   7. (P) Peer
   8. (NS) No Staff

B. TEACHER FOCUS - Who is the teacher teaching?:
   1. (TG) Target Student Only
   2. (TGO) Target Student and Others
   3. (OTH) Other Than Target Student
4. (NF) No Focus

C. LANGUAGE - INSTRUCTION - Language being used by the instructor:

1. (E) English
2. (NE) Not English
3. (MX) Mixed Languages
4. (NL) No Language
5. (CT) Can't Tell

D. TEACHER CORRECTION/AFFIRMATION - Is the teacher correcting or affirming language usage or academic performance?:

1. (C) Corrections
2. (A) Affirmations
3. (NCA) Neither Correcting nor Affirming

E. TEACHER BEHAVIOR - What is the teacher doing?:

1. (QA) Question Academic
2. (CA) Command Academic
3. (TA) Talk Academic
4. (TNA) Talk Non_Academic
5. (NVP) Non_Verbal Prompt
6. (TAT) Teacher Attention
7. (PR) Praise/Approval
8. (D) Disapproval
9. (RD) Read Aloud
10. (SG) Sing
11. (NR) No Response
12. (OTH) Other

STUDENT CODES:

STUDENT BEHAVIORS/RESPONSES - What is the student doing?:

A. STUDENT LANGUAGE INITIATING - RESPONDING BEHAVIORS

1. (IL) Initiating Language
2. (RL) Responding Language
3. (NIR) Neither Initiating nor Responding Language Behavior

B. ORAL RESPONSES

1. (TA) Talk Academic
2. (TM) Talk Management
3. (TO) Talk Other
4. (NT) No Talk
5. (CT) Can't Tell
C. **LANGUAGE - STUDENT** - Language being used by the target student:

1. (E) English
2. (NE) Not English
3. (MX) Mixed Languages
4. (NL) No Language
5. (CT) Can't Tell

D. **STUDENT ACTIVITY RELATED RESPONSES**

1. (W) Writing
2. (RA) Reading Aloud
3. (RS) Reading Silently
4. (T) Talk
5. (OA) Other Academic
6. (EX) Exercise/Sports/Games
7. (N_A) Non_Academic Response
8. (N_C) Non_Compliance Response
9. (SAT) Student Attention
10. (N) None
11. (CT) Can't Tell

**STOP CODE VARIABLES**

**STOP CODES** - Reasons for Not Collecting Data:

RB   Routine Breaks (Recess, Bathroom)
S    Sickness (Student, Teacher, Observer), or leaves school early
SE   Special Event (Assembly, Fire Drill, Testing, Errand)
CS   Change in Settings (Child goes to another room)
REL  Reliability (Pause to do a reliability check)
LU   Lunch
OTH  Other (Teacher request to stop, Other)