

Timing and Tracking Protocol

Protocol Purpose: This protocol is designed to gather information on the way(s) children interact with Expo booths in a festival environment.

Directions:

This protocol is for tracking elementary and middle school aged children (age 4-13) accompanied by at least one parent/guardian while attending an Expo-style event with booths.

Sample Selection:

- Draw an imaginary line at your starting location once in the Expo booth area of the event
- Count the family groups that go by, you will select the 1st child that crosses that imaginary line in the 3rd family group that goes by
- Track the activities of that specific child – not anyone else in that group

Tracking / Observation:

- Wear festival t-shirt and neutral clothes – the point is to blend in
- Find the comfortable distance from the family that you can see what the child is doing, but not so close that you can actually overhear their conversation or get in their space
- You can move about; you don't need to stay in one location if they settle for a while at an exhibit

Exhibit Stop -- a stop is defined as the child stopping at an exhibit for 10 seconds

- Enter exhibit number – each exhibit should have a unique number – ideally this will be located on the top of the tent, but you might have to look for this information



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Exhibit Stop Form

Complete form for each stop you record.

What is the number/name of the booth you observed?

[open ended]

1. How long did you have to wait to get to the booth table?

- No wait <5 minutes 5-9 minutes
 10-14 minutes 15-19 minutes 20+ minutes

2. Start time: _____

End time: _____

3. Activities: (Select all that apply)

- Doing an exhibit activity individually Looking
 Talking to an exhibitor Talking with parent/guardian
 Doing exhibit activity with parent/guardian Talking with another youth
 Doing an exhibit activity with another youth Waiting – moved on

4. Exhibit type:

- Hands-on Lecture/Talking Exhibit
 Demonstration Performance
 Lab Tour Other: _____

5. What is the gender of the child you observed? Female Male

6. Number of adults in the group? _____

7. Number of children in the group? _____

8. Additional Comments:

[open ended]

For additional information on this instrument, please review: [Kaya van Beynen & Theresa Burress \(2018\) Debris, diatoms, and dolphins: tracking child engagement at a public science festival, International Journal of Science Education, Part B, 8:4, 355-365.](#)



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