



## USING TALLY SHEETS AS CHECKLISTS

**Activity overview:** In this activity, you will look at examples of how to use tallies in checklists. Then you'll discuss how tallies can be helpful to monitor children's progress and inform teaching.

### Directions:

1. Examine the two examples below that show how teachers can use tallies in the classroom. You can use tallies:

- To count the number of times a particular behavior or event happens across activities during a day.
- To count the number of times it happens during specific times in the daily schedule.

Tallies can be used to monitor the progress of an entire classroom, a small group, or individual children.

### Example 1: Monitoring the progress of an individual child over time, by focusing on specific behaviors

Child's name	Date	Behavior to monitor		
		Joins group when prompted	Initiates interaction with peer	Cleans up before leaving activity
Caleb	11/3/14	II		I
	11/4/14		I	II
	11/5/14	IIII	I	III
	11/6/14	III	II	III
	11/7/14	IIII	II	II

### Example 2: Monitoring the progress of a small group of children during specific times of the day

Behavior: Identifies first letter of name		Date: 12/8/2014		
Child's name	Activity			
	Morning carpet time	Reading circle	Centers	
Silas	II	II	IIII	
Evan	IIII	II		
Lucas	I	II	II	
Nia	III	IIII	IIII	
Sabine	II	III	III	



2. Discuss the question below and record your answer.

**How is it helpful to monitor children's progress by using tallies?**

3. Now share ideas about how tally sheets can be used in your own classroom. Discuss and record your answer.

**How do you currently use tallies to monitor children's behavior?**

**What types of behaviors could you monitor by using tallies in the future? For groups of children?  
For individual children?**



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