Coding the Behavior Observation Data

Code the data you collected last week using the code we developed in class (see page 2).

Enter the data directly on the google spreadsheet. You should have received an email invitation (let me know if you can’t access it).

You should have 6 rows (each row is an observation). Enter values of variables into the appropriate column. The variable definitions are on the code on the next page.

“Missing values” are when you don’t have the information for some reason. Indicate missing values with a period (.) rather than a blank space. Remember that zero is a number, so should never be used to indicate missing values.

The only letters you enter should be for your name and your classmate’s name. All other variables should consist of a number, or a period (.) if the data are missing. If you aren’t sure how to code something, either make an executive decision and choose the closest number out of the possible options, or send me an email.

You will probably find some problems with this code—behavior that is hard to categorize, activity categories that are not mutually-exclusive, etc. But it should be serviceable. Email if you have questions or concerns.

The code for variables is on the next page. The boldfaced short variable name is the spreadsheet column heading.
BACKGROUND VARIABLES

you your name (first name is enough)
classmate if you observed with a classmate (same start/stop time, same child) enter classmate’s name, otherwise type none
ID enter number by child’s name in the list I gave you
day you observed, enter number Tues=1 Wed=2 Thurs=3 Fri=4 Mon=5
start time, enter as hh:mm, 24-hour clock. example: for 3:20pm, enter 15:20
duration duration of observation in minutes (10 if complete)
sex child’s gender, 0=female, 1=male
inside number of minutes child was inside
outside number of minutes child was outside

GROUP COMPOSITION VARIABLES (SHOULD SUM TO 10)
alone # minutes child was alone (not in parallel play)
parallel # minutes child was engaged in parallel play
sspair # minutes child was interacting with 1 same-sex child
ospair # minutes child was interacting with 1 opposite-sex child
samegrp # minutes child was interacting in same-sex group
mixgrp # minutes child was interacting in mixed-sex group

ACTIVITY VARIABLES (SHOULD SUM TO 10, WITH AN IDEAL CODE)
activesolo # minutes in active play alone (running, bike, etc)
activeother # minutes active play with other(s)
tableplay # minutes table play (blocks, puzzles, etc)
wander # minutes wandering
watching # minutes child is just watching others
sametalk # minutes conversing with same-sex children (no other play)
mixtalk # minutes conversing with opposite-sex or mixed-sex children
teachmin # minutes interacting with teacher
nothing # minutes doing nothing (staring into space, thinking)
other # minutes doing something not otherwise categorized

OTHER VARIABLES:
teacheapi # episodes interacting with teacher
creative # episodes child plays with objects in ways they weren’t designed for
physfight # episodes of physical conflict (fighting, pushing, etc)
verbfight # episodes of verbal conflict (saying mean things, etc)
indirfight # episodes of indirect conflict (shunning, refusing, etc)