

HANDOUT

SYSTEMS THINKING

Systems Thinking in Early Childhood: *Changing Times*

IDENTIFYING TRENDS

We track behavior when we want to find out how it is changing over time. Then we can identify trends and deepen our understanding of children's behavior, our teaching practices, or program activities.

PART 1

Think about your own work. What is a behavior or activity you would like to track over time? Describe it here.

PART 2

On the graph below, label the behavior you want to track on the y-axis (vertical axis). Then consider the period of time you'll need to track and identify a trend. Label that period of time on the x-axis (horizontal axis).



PART 3

Share your graph with a partner, explaining what you will track. Then discuss these questions:

- Will this timeframe help me see a trend?
- What is the benefit of tracking this trend? What short- and long-term decisions can this behavior over time graph help me make?