Behavior Lens
By SuperPsyched, LLC (v.1.1)

For iOS (iPad only), $24.99
www.superspsyched.com

Review by Reza Shahroozi

Picture this: You’re the acting school psychologist at an elementary school and have been asked to take a look at a child struggling in the classroom. Inevitably you will have to conduct some form of classroom observation. What type of observation are you conducting? Are you taking ABC data to identify triggers and maintaining consequences of problem behaviors? Or are you gathering comparison data of the student to a model peer? Better yet, if you’re drafting a behavior support or intervention plan, would you not want an efficient way to email that data in easy-to-understand graphs/charts to parents and teachers? Behavior Lens by SuperPsyched LLC is one fantastic option.

Behavior Lens is a multimodal observation tool created by school psychologists to identify the frequency, duration, and function of behaviors of interest for use on the iPad. Its uses and features include:

- Identify and target specific behaviors of concern
- Determine frequent triggers and maintaining consequences of problem behaviors
- Gather behavioral data for Response to Intervention or Problem-Solving Plans
- Develop behavior intervention plans
- Write and track IEP goals and objectives
- Monitor the efficacy of new medications or interventions
- Track behavior in the home environment
- Allow for multiple behaviors to be counted simultaneously within one direct observation
- Customizable for individual students (saves write-in values by student)
- Quick start function that allows the user to begin an observation immediately, entering pertinent student identification information at a later time
- Sophisticated design and meaningful graphs
- Confidentiality measures that adhere to professional ethical standards

As a Tier 2 psychologist at an elementary school implementing Behavioral Response to Intervention (RtI), I found myself constantly shuffling between different paper forms trying to match the observation to the referral question. Needless to say this became a tedious process, and this was before I got to the steps of making sense of the data and putting it into a graph or chart.

My first experience with Behavior Lens was when I was asked to observe a student having a hard time staying on task relative to his peers. Prior to beginning, the program asked me to create a profile (See Figure 1) that included the student’s name (or initials), and teacher’s name, and the student’s grade level. You can even set up separate databases for multiple schools. I then chose the “Interval Recording” option (I set it to 15 seconds) to compare this boy with a typical peer in his class as they were completing seatwork. The program alerted me to the end of each interval with a visual prompt and asked me to tap whether each student was on or off task (See Figure 2). If my target student was off-task, I could add a note describing his behavior at the time.

When my observation was completed, tapping on the “Reports” option allowed me to generate pie charts (See Figures 3 and 4) that showed the student’s on-task percentage as well as a breakdown of the behaviors that kept him off-task (in this case being distracted by the artwork in the classroom and other students). It was a very powerful visual that allowed the teacher and me to modify the room to accommodate for his distractibility. Taken a step further, when the student came up for an initial assessment, I was able to copy and paste these computer-generated graphs into my report which elicited more understanding from the parent than your typical anecdotal observation.

The makers of Behavior Lens frequently update the application with feedback from users. As a result, the software has added confidentiality measures to ensure the data you obtain doesn’t fall into the wrong hands. The application costs $24.99 and provides school psychologists with a valuable tool to share valuable behavior data with parents and educational staff. Bulk orders of 20 apps or more are eligible for a 50% discount through the Apple Volume Purchase Program for Educators. I highly recommend it to all school psychologists looking to make further use of their iPads.