"...and a child shall lead them": Stephanie's Chart Story

STEPHANIE BATES

DOUGLAS F. BATES

Stephanie Bates is a 6 year old, first grade pupil. She was 5 years old when she dictated the tape presentation to her father. Douglas F. Bates is presently completing his doctoral work at the University of Kansas, Kansas City.

In the Book of Isaiah, we find "...and a little child shall lead them." The counterpart of this in precision teaching is the principle, "The Child Knows Best." After encountering a great deal of difficulty in teaching people to use the Standard Daily Behavior Chart, we decided to practice what we had been teaching and turned to a child to learn how best to teach charting. The result was an 18 minute color slide presentation written and narrated by Stephanie Bates, a 5 year old kindergarten pupil (Bates, 1970). We hope this adapted version of Stephanie's slide-tape presentation will help you learn about charting.

Hello! My name is Stephanie Bates. I am 5. I go to kindergarten.

I would like to show you how to use a chart.

This is a chart. You use it to write down how many times in a day you help your mother, how many words you can read in a minute, and how many times the teacher has to tell the boys to stop running and making noise.

The chart has heavy, thick lines and light, skinny lines. The lines that go up and down are day lines. See this Sunday line going up and down and the Monday line right next to it. Do you see another Sunday line? The big heavy lines are day lines. They are day lines.

These lines go across the chart. They tell you how many times you do something. They tell you how often you can do something. I would like to teach you a new word. The new word is frequency. Frequency is how many times you do something in one minute. We use frequency on this chart to say how many times we do something in one minute, ten minutes, one hundred minutes, or a whole day. These lines that go across the chart are frequency lines.

See where the one line is that goes across. Dot number 1 is on the 1 line. The line that goes up and down through dot number 1 is the Sunday lines. They are day lines.

Do you see all the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday lines, and Thursday lines, and Friday and Saturday lines? They all go up and down like Sunday lines but are skinny. They are day lines too. All up and down lines are day lines.

These lines go across the chart. They tell you how many times you...
Monday line. Dot number 1 means I did something 1 time in 1 minute on Monday. Dot number 2 is on the 2 line. The line that goes up and down through it is a Wednesday line. Dot number 3 is on the 3 line and also on a Friday line. Dot number 3 means I did something 3 times in 1 minute on Friday.

- Now look at the frequency lines again. The lines that go across the chart are frequency lines. Look how the frequency lines are in groups. I made curves on this chart to show where the groups are. We call each group a cycle. There are six cycles on the chart.

- Now look at the numbers on the left side where the frequency lines are. The numbers tell us how often we do something. Let’s look at the cycle from 1 to 10 and tell what each frequency line means. When we count up from 1 the lines mean 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 times a minute.

- In the next group of frequency lines, the line above 10 is 20. In that cycle the lines mean 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100 times a minute. The next cycle of lines means 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1,000 times a minute.

- The bottom half of the chart is for the things that happen less than one time in one minute. The numbers for these lines are decimal fractions. I don’t know what decimal fractions are yet, so my daddy has shown me another way to talk about the bottom half of the chart. But it still means the same thing.

- Look at the bottom cycle that goes from .001 to .01. It tells how many times something happens in 1,000 minutes. The next to the bottom cycle is from .01 to .1. It tells how many times something happens in 100 minutes. The next cycle up, .1 to 1, tells how many times something happens in 10 minutes.

- Sometimes when you want to put a dot on the chart, there is not a frequency line where you want to put it. What would you do? You would put it in the place you want it between the 2 closest frequency lines. Look at the place where I put the dot on the Wednesday line. It means I did something 15 times in 1 minute.

- All of the dots are on Wednesday lines. They show how often I did something on Wednesdays. That number 1 is on the 1 line in the 10 minute cycle. Line number 1 in the 10 minute cycle is the same thing as the 10 line in the 100 minute cycle. Dot number 1 means I did something 1 time in 10 minutes. Dot number 2 is on the 2 line in the 100 minute cycle. That means I did something 2 times in 100 minutes.

- Dot number 3 is on the 3 line in the 1,000 minute cycle. Dot number 3 means I did something 3 times in 1,000 minutes. Dot number 4 means I did something 4 times in 100 minutes. Dot number 5 is on the 5 line in the 10 minute cycle. Dot number 5 means I did something 5 times in 10 minutes.

- See the other dots that I have put on this next chart? Can you guess what the dots mean?
All of the dots are on Wednesday lines. They show how often I did something on Wednesdays. That number 1 is on the 1 line in the 10 minute cycle. Line number 1 in the 10 minute cycle is the same thing as the 10 line in the 100 minute cycle. Dot number 1 means I did something 1 time in 10 minutes. Dot number 2 is on the 2 line in the 100 minute cycle. That means I did something 2 times in 100 minutes.

Dot number 3 is on the 3 line in the 1,000 minute cycle. Dot number 3 means I did something 3 times in 1,000 minutes. Dot number 4 means I did something 4 times in 100 minutes. Dot number 5 is on the 5 line in the 10 minute cycle. Dot number 5 means I did something 5 times in 10 minutes.

Sometimes when you want to put a dot on the chart, there is not a frequency line where you want to put it. What would you do? You could put it in the place you want between the 2 closest frequency lines. Look at the place where I put the dot on the Wednesday line. It means I did something 15 times in 10 minutes.

Every day when you count something you put a dot on the chart. Then you draw a line between the dots. Some days you may not count anything, so you don't put any dots on the chart. If you did something and you didn't count it, it is called an Ignored Day. If you did not count anything because you could not do the thing you were counting, then it is called a No Chance Day.

I am going to show you an Ignored Day on this chart. See the Wednesday line where the arrow is. On that day I did something but I did not count it so I can't put a dot on the chart. So I just drew a line from the dot before Wednesday to the dot after Wednesday. That means that Wednesday was an Ignored Day.

Now I would like to show you some No Chance Days on this chart. See the Saturday and Sunday lines where the arrows are. On those days I couldn't do the thing I was counting, so they were just No Chance Days. To show a No Chance Day, you just leave the chart blank and you don't draw any lines through that day.

Now we have learned the things that are most important about charting. I would like to say them over again so you don't forget them when you do your own charts.

There are 140 days on this chart. The big heavy lines that go up and down are Sunday lines. The light lines that go up and down are Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday and Saturday lines. The lines that go up and down are all day lines.

The lines that go across are frequency lines. Frequency is how often you do something. These frequency lines tell how many times you do something. This chart can show when you do something 1,000 times in 1 minute or 1 time in 1,000 minutes. One thousand minutes are about the same as 1 day.

You can show how many times you do something by putting a dot on this chart where the frequency line and the day line cross. Sometimes you have to put a dot between two frequency lines, but you still put it on the right day line.

There are 6 frequency cycles on this chart. They are .001 to .01, .01 to .1, .1 to 1, 1 to 10, 10 to 100, 100 to 1,000.

You can show three different kinds of days on this chart: Charted Days, Ignored Days, and No Chance Days. A Charted Day is when you count something. You show a Charted Day by putting a dot on the chart in the right place.

A No Chance Day is when you can't do what you are counting. Just leave the chart blank. An Ignored Day is when you can do something but you don't count it. Connect the dots on each side of Ignored Days.

Now take your chart and a pencil. Write in your name where it says protege or behavior. Write how old you are where it says age, and then write what grade you are in where it says label. Then where it says movement write something you do that you want to change. Start to count how often you do it so you can put it on the chart. Then you'll have a picture of whether you're really changing.

Thank you for letting me tell you about charting. Have fun using it. Bye. Be good.