

AFTERSCHOOL TRAINING TOOLKIT

Tutoring to Enhance Science Skills

Tutoring Two: Learning to Make Data Tables

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Guidelines for Making a Data Table

In most cases, the independent variable (that which you purposefully change) is in the left column, the dependent variable (that which you measure) with the different trials is in the next columns, and the derived or calculated column (often average) is on the far right. Reaffirm that rows are a series of horizontal cells and that columns are a series of vertical cells.

Title: Clearly state the purpose of the experiment (e.g., The effect of ____ (independent variable) on ____ (dependent variable).

Independent Variable (unit)	Dependent Variable (unit)			Derived Quantity (unit)
	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	

Note: This data table format is adapted from *Students and Research* (Cothron, Giese, and Rezba, 2000).

Have students practice creating data tables first with paper, pencil, and rulers, and later with Excel if computers are available. Use sample data, experimental data from investigations, or create data sets to allow for ample practice.

Example

Title: The pH of Common Household Substances

Substance	pH			Average pH
	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	
Lemon juice	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.2
Baking soda	8.4	8.3	8.7	8.5
Orange juice	3.5	4.0	3.4	3.6