## SINGLE SUBJECT DESIGN PAPER AND CHART

**“**Single subject design” is used in social work practice when the social worker is attempting to change the behavior of an individual, family, or a small group of individuals and wishes to document that change. The social worker uses line graphs to show the effects of a particular intervention.

Suppose the social worker wished to determine the impact of praise on reducing the client’s disruptive behavior over many days. First, she would need to establish a **baseline** of how frequently the disruptions occurred. She would measure how many disruptions occurred each day for several days. In the example below, the student was disruptive seven times on the first day, six times on the second day, and seven times on the third day. Note how the sequence of time is depicted on the x-axis (horizontal axis) and the dependent variable (outcome variable) is depicted on the y-axis (vertical axis).

Once a baseline of behavior has been established (when a consistent pattern emerges with at least three data points), the intervention begins. The social worker continues to plot the frequency of behavior while implementing the intervention of praise. In this example, you can see that the frequency of disruptions *decreased* once praise began. The design in this example is known as an A-B design. The baseline period is referred to as A and the intervention period is identified as B.

The student will complete a single subject evaluative design on the client chosen, using line graphs to show the effects of the intervention used in the case. The student will discuss the intervention used and what the outcomes of the single subject design revealed.

