

**Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) Assessment Tools:
The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers, Second Edition (DECA-P2)
Summary Table**

DECA for Preschoolers (DECA-P2)	
Description	The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers, Second Edition (DECA-P2) is a behavior rating scale that is completed by parents and/or teachers which provides an assessment of within-child protective factors central to social and emotional health and resilience, as well as a screener for behavioral concerns in children ages 3 through 5 (i.e., up to the sixth birthday).
Authors	Paul A. LeBuffe and Jack A. Naglieri
Publisher and ordering link to webpage	Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC www.kaplanco.com/devereux
Publication date	2012
Age range	Ages 3 through 5 (i.e., up to the sixth birthday)
Scale titles and description Number of items	<p><i>Total Protective Factors (TPF) – 27 items</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initiative</i>: The child’s ability to use independent thought and action to meet his/her needs – 9 items • <i>Self-Regulation</i>: The child’s ability to express emotions and manage behaviors in healthy ways – 9 items • <i>Attachment/Relationships</i>: The child’s ability to promote and maintain mutual, positive connections with other children and significant adults – 9 items <p><i>Behavioral Concerns – 11 items</i></p> <p>Total items on DECA-P2 – 38</p>
Reading level	Sixth-grade
Used as an assessment and/or screener	The DECA-P2 can be used as either a screening tool or an assessment tool, depending on the <u>process and purpose</u> for which it is used. DECA-P2 results are to used identify the social and emotional strengths and needs of a child. Results of the assessment should be used to plan for children to support their growth and development in the area of social and emotional health. If the DECA-P2 is used to assess children’s protective factors and results are used to plan for that child’s growth and/or aggregated and used to plan for a group of children, then it is being used as an assessment tool. If the DECA-P2 is used only to identify which children may need further observation or assessment, then it is being used as a screener.
Psychometrics	<p>Reliability:</p> <p>Internal reliability/Consistency – Total Protective Factor (TPF) coefficients for parent raters (.92) and teacher raters (.95). Behavioral Concerns scale for parent raters (.80) and teacher raters (.86) also meet or exceed recommended minimum</p>

	<p>standard—See User’s Manual for details.</p> <p>Test-retest reliability – TPF coefficients for parent raters (.88) and teacher raters (.95). Behavioral Concerns scale for parent raters (.78) and teacher raters (.80).</p> <p>Inter-rater reliability – Correlations on all scales for teachers, and all but one scale for parents, are significant ($p < .01$). Total Protective Factors scale correlations are .51 for parent raters and .72 for teacher raters. Behavioral Concerns scale coefficients are .46 for parents and .70 for teachers.</p> <p>Validity:</p> <p>Content validity – High, based on literature review of social and emotional competence and resilience in young children, focus groups with early care and education professionals, and review by a National Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Criterion validity – The DECA-P2 has shown significant differences between scores of preschoolers in an “identified sample” (those with emotional and behavioral disturbance) versus the “community sample” (their non-identified peers).</p> <p>Construct validity – The DECA-P2 has strong convergent validity with the total scale scores for both the Preschool Emotional and Behavioral Rating Scale (PreBERS) and Conners Early Childhood (EC).</p>
Standardization sample	Final sample included 3,553 children ages 3-5, representative of US Population based on the following factors: age, gender, geographic region of residence, race ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
Administration Time	The assessment items take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete in the paper version. Time is reduced to 3-5 minutes with use of the web-based version. Visit www.e-deca2.org for more information.
Results and Basic Interpretation Descriptions, Standard scores provided	Percentile ranks and T-scores are provided for each scale (Initiative, Self-Regulation, Attachment/Relationships, Behavioral Concerns) and for Total Protective Factors. Scale score results range from Area of Need (T-scores 40 and below), Typical (T-scores 41-59), and Strengths (T-scores 60 and above) for Protective Factor scales. For the Behavioral Concerns scale, results range from Area of Need (T-scores 60 and above) or Typical (T-scores 59 and below). Results are provided at the individual and group levels via the Individual Child Profile and the Group/Classroom Profile.
Advanced Interpretation	Individual Item Analysis allows for identification of specific behaviors that can be leveraged (Strengths) or improved (Areas of Need) through use of specific strategies or interventions. Additional interpretation provided on the following: Percentage Delay; Comparisons Across Raters; Pretest-Posttest Comparison; Evaluating Outcomes at the Child and Program Levels
Strategies/Planning	Results from the DECA-P2 lead to strength-based planning at the Child, Group, and Program levels. The DECA-P2 is part of a comprehensive system of assessment and planning. Strategies are offered for families as well as early childhood professionals, and other staff who work with young children. DCRC offers many useful planning resources, primarily <i>Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategy Guide for Early Childhood Professionals</i> and <i>Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Young Children</i> . Visit www.centerforresilientchildren.org for more information on strategies and planning resources.

Languages	English and Spanish; culturally appropriate items (interpret results with child's culture in mind)
Web-based (electronic) version	The web-based version of the DECA-P2 is part of the e-DECA web-based platform. Assessment options include per administration or per child. Visit www.e-deca2.org for more information.
Cost per Assessment	Approximately \$1 per assessment
Cost per Kit (all items may be purchased separately)	Cost of Kit: \$209.95. Kit includes: DECA-P2 record forms (40), <i>User's Guide and Technical Manual</i> , <i>Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategy Guide for Early Childhood Professionals</i> , <i>Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Young Children</i> (20 copies), <i>Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You</i> (2 copies), <i>FLIP IT®: Transforming Challenging Behavior</i> .
Resources for families	Families can complete the DECA-P2 on their child. <i>Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Young Children</i> is offered to help families understand resilience and social and emotional health, as well as how to build these skills in their child. <i>Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers</i> , our teachers' guide, offers many strategies and tips on creating and maintaining family partnerships. <i>Socially Strong Emotionally Secure</i> provides 50 activities designed to promote resilience. Additional projects and resources for families are in development, specifically within DCRC's Child Welfare Initiative. In addition, DCRC's website provides information as well as many free activities and strategies for families to use to promote resilience. www.centerforresilientchildren.org/home/for-parents/
<u>Professional Development available</u>	Training is not required to use the DECA-P2. However, to best support users, DCRC offers a wide variety of opportunities for professional development, including: Recorded scoring tutorial available: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APEYEEpDbzE&feature=g-all-u Free webinars (live and/or archived) available via: http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/professional-development/webinars/ Fee for Service Trainings to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-Day DECA-P2 Program Implementation Training (Best Practice) 1-Day DECA-P2 Program Overview Training 1-Day DECA-P2 Program Refresher Training 1-Day DECA-P2 Program for Family Service Workers 1-Day DECA-P2 Program Strategies Training (for those programs who have received training and are looking to strengthen skills in using assessment results for planning),

	<p>2-Day Local Program Mentor Training (for individuals who have completed the 2 day Implementation Training and wish to bring Training and T/A to their local program and/or community).</p> <p>DCRC staff trains on many other topics related to preschoolers' social and emotional health including: Challenging Behavior, Reflective Practice, Quality Teaching Practices, Observation, and much more. Contact: dmahler@devereux.org</p>
Meets Professional Standards	<p>The DECA-P2 helps programs meet both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Head Start Performance Standards. For these crosswalks, as well as alignment matrices with other curricula and assessment tools, visit: www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/alignment-tools/</p>

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References:

Conners, C.K. (2009). *Conners early childhood manual*. Toronto, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.

Epstein, M.H. & Synhorst, L. (2009). *Preschool behavioral and emotional rating scale, examiner's manual*. Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.

LeBuffe, P.A. & Naglieri, J.A. (2012). *Devereux early childhood assessment for preschoolers, second edition*. Lewisville, NC: Kaplan Early Learning Company.

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