

RECOGNITION FOR DCRC RESOURCES:

"Using the DECA has allowed the Washington State Department of Early Learning to show positive social and emotional outcomes in our state pre-kindergarten program. This data confirms what I believe the children across the state need; high quality early childhood programs that focus on children's social and emotional well-being." *Joyce Kilmer, Administrator, Early Childhood Education & Assistance (ECEAP), State of Washington*

"The DECA Program has made it possible to promote children's resilience, provide caregivers with research-based assessment and strategy resources, and track progress for thousands of children across the state. The outcome data confirms that implementation of the DECA Program has been a sound investment for the state of Ohio." *Marla Himmeger, Mental Health Administrator, State of Ohio*

"I am passionate about teaching "my" children. I actively teach conflict resolution, problem solving and self-control. It's a difficult and time-consuming process, and I am extraordinarily proud to help to foster their emotional and social growth. While most of the time I am extraordinarily patient, there are days (or weeks) when I feel like I just don't have it in me anymore. Today's Building My Bounce training helped me to connect the dots---when I am at my wits end, is when I need to focus on MY resilience. I am SO EXCITED to go to school tomorrow and be the best teacher I can be! Thank you for your passion. Your work is changing the lives of children you've never even met." *Early Childhood Educator, United States of America*

"I consider myself a very strong woman. I am a single divorced Mom of a beautiful 5 year old boy. Without getting into details, life is hard right now. I just get tired some days. Today's training gave me the extra boost I need right now to push me out of hole I have fallen into. Today's event has inspired me to be a better person and to move onto the next chapter in my life with a better outlook for myself and my well being. I truly appreciate your message and I will pass my new found knowledge onto others and the children I work with every day." *Early Childhood Educator, United States of America*



"The DESSA is a great step in the right direction. SEL is critical for student achievement and well-being. Using a pre/post assessment tells teachers it's time to start paying close attention to the social skills we instinctively know are important to student success. It helps teacher's awareness but it also gives teachers a way to address these behaviors that is proactive!" *Elementary School Educator, Anchorage School District, State of Alaska*

Devereux Center for Resilient Children

1-866-872-4687

www.CenterForResilientChildren.org

Devereux
CENTER FOR RESILIENT CHILDREN

Center for Resilient Children

www.CenterForResilientChildren.org

MISSION:

The mission of the Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) is to promote social and emotional development, foster resilience, and build skills for school and life success in children from birth through school-age, as well as to promote the resilience of the adults who care for them.

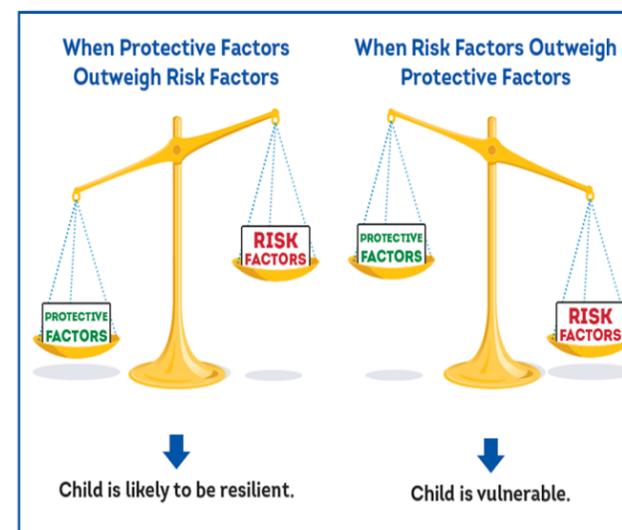
FOCUS ON PREVENTION:

The critical link between young children's social and emotional health and success in school and life can not be underestimated. Research confirms that building young children's social and emotional skills and strengths can prevent the development of emotional and behavioral problems. In 1996, responding to an emerging understanding of the preventable causes of some emotional and behavioral problems, Devereux, the nation's leading nonprofit behavioral health care provider since 1912, created the Devereux Early Childhood Initiative (DECI). With a focus on assessing and promoting young children's resilience, the Devereux Early Childhood Initiative has reached more than four million children across the nation.

In 2009, the Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) was created to expand Devereux's commitment to primary prevention and promotion of resilience in all children. The DCRC encompasses the Devereux Early Childhood Initiative (DECI) as well as the emerging focus on school-age children.

FOCUS ON RESILIENCE:

The Devereux Center for Resilient Children focuses on promoting resilience, the capacity to achieve positive outcomes despite stress and adversity. This capacity for resilience depends on



certain characteristics often referred to as protective factors. Protective factors offset or diminish the effects of risk and adversity. Children with these factors tend to have positive outcomes despite stress and may be called resilient. Children without these factors are more likely to experience negative life outcomes, such as emotional and behavioral problems or learning difficulties and may be considered vulnerable.

The DCRC research-based assessments and programs focus on measuring and developing these protective factors and thereby promoting resilience. Because any child may face risk and adversity, all children can benefit from a program that fosters resilience.

"The time has long passed for yet another piecemeal approach to mental health reform. Instead, the Commission recommends a fundamental transformation of the Nation's approach to mental health care. This transformation must ensure that mental health services and supports actively facilitate recovery, and build resilience to face life's challenges."

President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, 2003

DEVEREUX CENTER FOR RESILIENT CHILDREN PROGRAMS:

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE:

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Programs (DECA Preschool and DECA Infant Toddler) are strength-based assessment and planning systems designed to promote resilience in children ages 4 weeks to 6 years of age. Through these programs, early childhood professionals and families learn specific strategies to support young children's social and emotional development and to enhance the overall quality of early childhood programs. The centerpiece of these programs are standardized, strength-based assessments that measure protective factors related to resilience. Supporting resources include teacher and family strategy guides in English and Spanish; instructional, interactive DVDs; Songs of Resilience; live and on-line classroom training and web resources.

Today, the DECA Program is being implemented in thousands of early childhood settings across the country including Head Start Programs, school readiness initiatives, foster care and Pre-K programs and has impacted more than 3 million children. The Early Childhood Initiative is committed to advocacy and education efforts that highlight the important link between a child's cognitive development and social/emotional development.

SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM:

The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) is a nationally-normed behavior rating scale that assesses social-emotional competencies of children in grades K-8. This assessment was developed in response to a number of national trends in our schools and communities, including:

- »The growing evidence-base that students' social-emotional competencies are essential to academic success (Payton et al., 2008)
- »The emerging paradigm shift in pupil personnel services, including school psychology, from a "wait to fail" and "test and place" approach to a universal mental health promotion agenda (Doll & Cummings, 2008)
- »The practice and policy emphasis on resilience as a critical component of mental health (New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, 2003)

ADULT RESILIENCE PROGRAM:

Adults who are resilient are better able to support the needs of children within their care. Our Adult Resilience Program includes resources, training and technical assistance to help adults strengthen their protective factors, so that they too can "bounce back." The cornerstone of our Adult Resilience Program is the DARS, the Devereux Adult Resiliency Survey, which is a research-based self assessment of key behaviors related to adult resilience. Once caregivers complete the DARS, strategies for strengthening their own relationships, initiative, internal beliefs and self-control are available through live training and an Adult Resiliency Journal, "Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You" which includes reflective readings and activities.



UTILITY OF THE DECA AND DESSA:

In a variety of studies, research has demonstrated

The predictive validity of the DECA and DESSA.

- » Total Protective Factors as measured by the DECA and DESSA assessments correlate highly with measures of cognitive and language skills (early childhood) and academic performance (school-age).
- » The DECA assessments can identify at risk children. Children with high scores on the DECA protective factor scales have fewer behavioral concerns.

The effectiveness of the DECA Program.

- » Participation in the DECA Program increased children's protective factors and often decreased behavioral concerns.

Summaries of these studies are available on our website at www.CenterForResilientChildren.org.

The DECA has been recommended as the best measure for early care and education, early childhood research, and assessing emotional intelligence in preschool settings in the U.S., Canada and England (Birkby, 2005; Reddy, 2007; Stainback-Tracy, 2004; Stewart-Brown & Edmunds, 2007). Validating these findings are the countless early childhood demonstration grants and program models across the country which have used the DECA to measure outcomes. Among them are:

- »The National Evaluation of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children. This study is sponsored by SAMHSA, and is collecting data on child mental health outcomes, family life and service system development and performance.
- »Several state Community Mental Health Services Block Grants, including the District of Columbia, Illinois, Oregon and Arkansas.
- »Maryland's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Evaluation Project
- »State of Washington Department of Early Learning
- »Ohio Department of Mental Health
- »The Bounce Learning Network Implementation Study, which is an evaluation of the Educare early care and education model.

The U.S. Department of Education has identified the DECA as one of four assessment tools appropriate to assess the percentage of eligible children attaining measurable gains in emotional, behavioral, and social development.