

**Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) Assessment Tools:  
The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Toddlers (DECA-T)  
Summary Table**

| <b>DECA for Toddlers DECA-T</b>                               |  |
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| <b>Description</b>  | The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Toddlers (DECA-T) is a behavior rating scale that is completed by parents and/or caregivers which provides an assessment of within-child protective factors central to social and emotional health and resilience in toddlers ages 18 to 36 months. The DECA-T is part of the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Program for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T) which includes the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants (DECA-I), an assessment for infants ages 4 week to 18 months. |
| <b>Authors</b>  | Mary Mackrain, Paul A. LeBuffe, and Gregg Powell   |
| <b>Publisher and ordering link to webpage</b>                 | Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC<br><a href="http://www.kaplanco.com/devereux">www.kaplanco.com/devereux</a>  |
| <b>Publication date</b>                                       | 2007   |
| <b>Age range</b>  | 18 months to 36 months   |
| <b>Raters</b>   | Raters fall into two categories: 1) parents, guardians, other family caregivers or family child care providers who observe the child in a homelike setting; and 2) teachers or other childcare and education professionals who see the child in a child care program or infant toddler program. Observation of the toddler over a 4 week period is necessary to complete the assessment. No specific training required to rate the child.  |
| <b>Qualifications of Users</b>                                | Knowledge of test (assessment) interpretation necessary to understand results and explain results to families.   |
| <b>Scale titles and description</b><br><b>Number of items</b> | <b><i>DECA-Toddlers (DECA-T)</i></b><br><i>Total Protective Factors (TPF)</i> – 36 items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Initiative</i>: The toddler’s ability to use independent thought and action to meet his/her needs – 11 items</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Self-Regulation</i>: The toddler’s ability to use independent thought and action to meet his or her needs – 7 items</li> <li>• <i>Attachment/Relationships</i>: The mutual, strong, long-lasting relationship between the toddler and significant adults such as family members, and teachers – 18 items</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Reading level</b>                                | Sixth-grade  |
| <b>Used as an assessment and/or screening tool?</b> | The DECA-T can be used as a screening tool or an assessment tool, depending on the <u>process and purpose</u> for which it is used. If the DECA-T is used as part of a surveillance process to globally identify children’s strengths as well as which toddlers may need further observation or assessment, then it is being used as a screener. If the DECA-T is used to assess, interpret and plan for the growth of a toddler’s protective factors across time, it is being used as part of an assessment process.  |
| <b><u>Psychometrics</u></b>                         | <p><b><u>Reliability:</u></b></p> <p><b>Internal reliability/Consistency</b> –Total Protective Factor (TPF) coefficients for parent raters on the Toddler Form were .94; and coefficients for teacher raters were .95. These figures meet or exceed the recommended minimum standard—Details in User’s Manual.</p> <p><b>Test-retest reliability</b> – Significant at the <math>p &lt; .001</math> level. TPF coefficients for parent raters ranged from .92 - .99; and teacher raters ranged from .72 - .98).</p> <p><b>Inter-rater reliability</b> – Significant at the <math>p &lt; .01</math> level. Total Protective Factors scale correlations ranged from .62 - .72 for parent raters; and the range was .66 to .74 for teacher raters.</p> <p><b><u>Validity:</u></b></p> <p><b>Content validity</b> – High, based on literature review of resilience literature related to young children, focus groups with parents, teachers, and infant and early childhood mental health professionals, as well as careful review of other infant and toddler social and emotional assessments. Finally, the DCRC staff and a National Advisory Board provided additional feedback that shaped assessment items and scales.</p> <p><b>Criterion validity</b> – The DECA-I/T has shown significant differences between scores of infants and</p> |

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|  | <p>toddlers in an “identified sample” (those with emotional and behavioral disturbance) versus the “community sample” (their non-identified peers).</p> <p><b>Construct validity</b> – Using the sister tool of the DECA-I/T, the DECA (for ages 2-5), data was matched between 2 year olds using each assessment tool. The DECA-T was found to have strong convergent validity with the DECA. Due to the similarity in scale structure and items, there is a level of confidence regarding convergence evidence of the DECA-I as well.</p>  |
| <a href="#">Standardization sample</a>   | Final sample for both the DECA-I and DECA-T included 2,183 children ages 4 weeks to 36 months (45% infants and 55% toddlers), representative of US Population based on the following factors: age, gender, geographic region of residence, race ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.   |
| <b>Administration Time</b>   | 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 <a href="http://www.e-deca2.org">www.e-deca2.org</a> for more information.  |
| <b>Results and Basic Interpretation Descriptions, Standard scores provided</b> | Raw scale scores, Percentile ranks and T-scores are provided for each scale (Initiative, Self-Regulation, Attachment/Relationships) 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. Results are provided at the individual and group levels via the Individual Child Profile and the Group/Classroom Profile.   |
| <b>Advanced Interpretation</b>   | Advanced interpretation is provided on the following: Percentage Delay; Comparisons Across Raters; Pretest-Posttest Comparisons.   |
| <b>Strategies/Planning</b>   | Results from the DECA-T lead to strength-based planning at the Child, Group, and Program levels. The DECA-T is part of a comprehensive system of assessment and planning. Research informed classroom and home-based strategies that families and caregivers can use to support a child’s DECA-T results are offered through accompanying DECA-I/T Program resources to include; the <i>Infant and Toddler Strategies Guide</i> and <i>For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Toddlers</i> . Visit <a href="http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org">www.centerforresilientchildren.org</a> for more information on strategies and planning resources. |
| <b>Languages</b>   | English and Spanish; culturally appropriate items (interpret results with child’s culture in mind)   |

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| <b>Web-based (electronic) version</b>                       | The web-based version of the DECA-T is part of the e-DECA web-based platform. Assessment options include per administration or per child. Visit <a href="http://www.e-deca2.org">www.e-deca2.org</a> for more information.   |
| <b>Cost per Assessment</b>                                  | Approximately \$1 per assessment   |
| <b>Cost per Kit (all items may be purchased separately)</b> | Cost of DECA I/T Kit: \$199.95. Kit includes: Record forms (20 Infant and 30 Toddler), <i>User's Manual</i> , <i>Infant and Toddler Strategies Guide</i> , <i>For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Toddlers</i> (20 copies), <i>Building Your Bounce: Simple Strategies for a Resilient You</i> (2 copies), <i>Parent/Teacher Master</i>   |
| <b>Resources for families</b>                               | Families can complete the DECA-T on their child. <i>For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Toddlers</i> is offered to help families understand resilience and social and emotional health, as well as how to build these skills in their infants and toddlers. Our <i>Infant and Toddler Strategies Guide</i> , offers many strategies and tips for caregivers 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.<br>Visit: <a href="http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/infantsandtoddlers">www.centerforresilientchildren.org/infantsandtoddlers</a> |
| <b><u>Professional Development available</u></b>            | Training is not required to use the DECA-T. However, to best support users, DCRC offers a wide variety of opportunities for professional development, including:<br><br>Recorded webinar on the DECA-I/T available: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZwLMYO86HE">www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZwLMYO86HE</a><br><br>Free live webinars available via: <a href="http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/professional-development/webinars/">www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/professional-development/webinars/</a><br><br>Fee for Service Trainings to include:<br>2-Day DECA-I/T Program Implementation Training (Best Practice)<br>1-Day DECA-I/T Program Overview Training  |

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|                                     | <p>1-Day DECA-I/T Program Refresher Training</p> <p>1-Day DECA-I/T Program for Family Service Workers</p> <p>1-Day DECA-I/T Program Strategies Training (for those programs who have received training and are looking to strengthen skills in using assessment results for planning),</p> <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 infants and toddlers’ social and emotional health including: Adult Resilience, Challenging Behavior, Reflective Practice, Quality Teaching Practices, Observation, and much more. Contact: <a href="mailto:dmahler@devereux.org">dmahler@devereux.org</a></p> |
| <b>Meets Professional Standards</b> | <p>The DECA-T helps programs meet both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Early Head Start/Head Start Performance Standards. For these crosswalks, as well as alignment matrices with other curricula and assessment tools, visit: <a href="http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/alignment-tools/">www.centerforresilientchildren.org/preschool/alignment-tools/</a></p>   |

**References:**

Mackrain, M., LeBuffe, P., & Powell, G. (2007). *Devereux early childhood assessment for infants and toddlers*. Lewisville, NC: Kaplan Early Learning Company.

Mackrain, M., LeBuffe, P., & Powell, G. (2007). *Devereux early childhood assessment for infants and toddlers – user’s guide*. Lewisville, NC: Kaplan Early Learning Company.