



By Mary Mackrain, Consultant Devereux Early Childhood Initiative



Objectives

- Learn about the Devereux Early Childhood
 Assessment Program for Infants and Toddlers
 - Child Assessments
 - Social and Emotional <u>Environmental</u> Tool (CARE checklist)
 - Adult Resilience Tools
- Learn about the benefits of using the DECA-I/T Program across various early childhood programs
- · Questions and Answers

Why the Focus on Resilience?

- · Infants and Toddlers face daily risk.
- Young children are being expelled from child care at 3 times the rate of children expelled from K-12, and 3-5 times for children of color (Gilliam, 2005).
- One in five children enters kindergarten with poor social development skills: it's difficult for them to join others in play; they don't have the ability to make and keep friends; and they do not positively interact with their peers (Raver and Knitzer 2002).

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Defining Resilience

- The ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change
- The ability to bounce back
- "Overcoming the Odds"



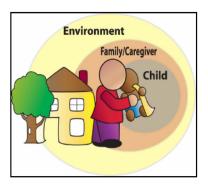
Resilience Theory: A Ray of Hope

- Emmy Werner Hawaii- Study began in 1955
- Selected 500 plus children born at risk that year
- Further examined 30% of the children who were at <u>high</u> risk (with 4 or more significant risk factors)
 - 2/3 had significant negative life problems
 - but 1/3 did not! They had positive outcomes!
 - described as children who... "lived well, loved well, played well & expected well"
- · What characterized these children?

Resilience Model



The DECA-I/T Program Supports Protective Factors Across the



Defining the DECA for Infants and Toddlers

- · The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T) is an instrument for assessing protective factors.
- The DECA-I/T also screens for potential risks to social and emotional development in very young children.

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and **Toddlers**

Designed to build 3 within-child protective factors...

- Attachment/ Relationships
- Initiative
- Self-regulation



INITIATIVE: The infant or toddlers ability to use independent thought and action to meet his or





- Show concerns for other children
- Try to comfort others
- Play make-believe
- Try to clean up after herself/himself
- Show preference for a particular playmate
- React to another child's cry
- Ask to do new things
- Play with other children
- Participate in group activities
- Try to do things for herself/himself
- · Follow simple directions



ATTACHMENT/RELATIONSHIPS: The mutual, strong, long-lasting relationship between an infant or toddler and significant adults such as parents, family members and teachers.







- Smile at familiar adults
- Act happy with familiar adult
- Show pleasure when interacting with adults
- Smile back at familiar adults
- Seek comfort from familiar adults
- Express a variety of emotions
- Reach for familiar adult
- Make needs know to a familiar adult
- Accept comfort from a familiar adult
- Act happy when praised
- Make eye contact with others
- Make others aware of her/his needs
- Show interest in her/his surroundings
- Respond to her/his name
- Respond to name when spoke to
- Enjoy being cuddled
- Enjoy interacting with others



SELF-REGULATION: Child's ability to actively control arousal and his or her response to it.



- · Handle frustration well
- · Accept another choice when the first choice was not available
- · Adjust to changes in routine
- · Calm herself/himself
- · Easily follow a daily routine
- · Have regular sleeping patterns
- · Easily go from one activity to another



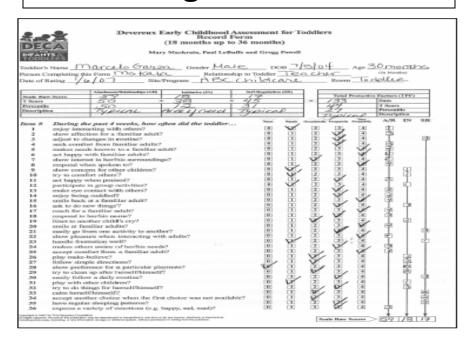
DECA-Infant: Record Form

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DECA-Toddler: Record Form

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Scoring the DECA-IT



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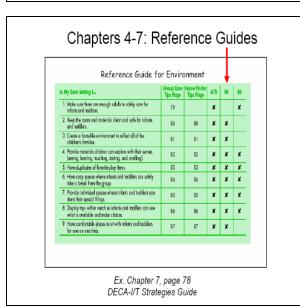
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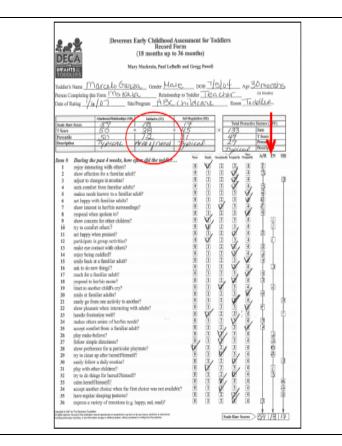
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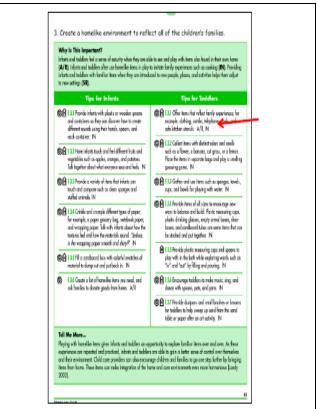
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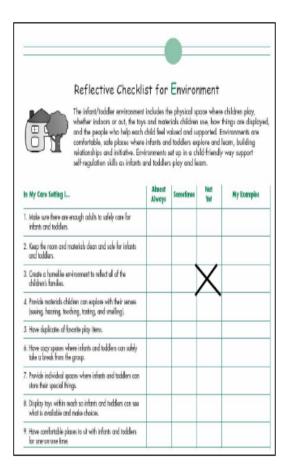


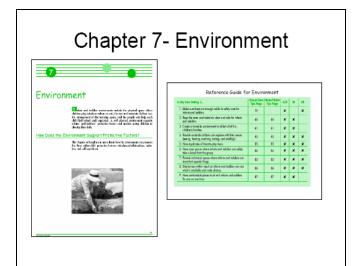


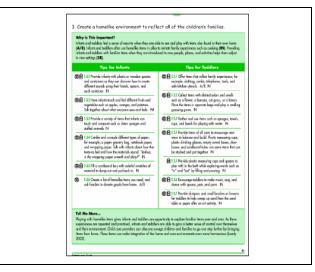


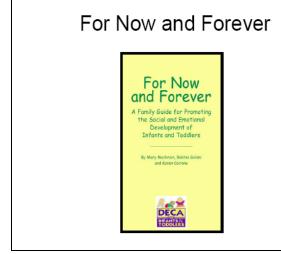
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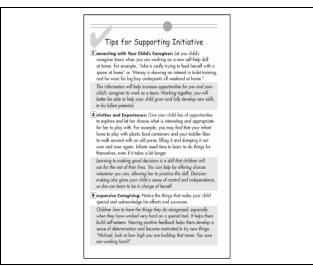
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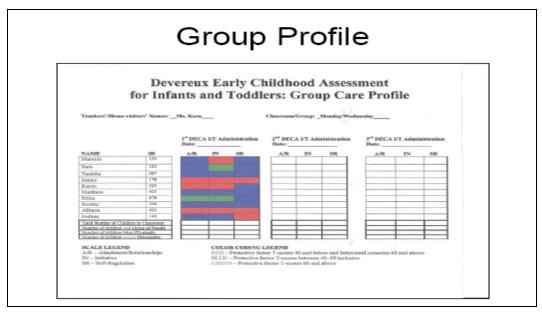














What is in a DECA-I/T Kit?

• 20 For Now and Forever Guides



• 1 Strategies Guide



• 1 Users Guide



What Is in a DECA-I/T Kit?

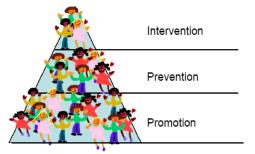
•30 Toddler assessments, 20 Infant assessments and a master set of reproducible scoring profiles



• 3 Building Your Bounce Reflective Journals (to support Adult Resilience)



DECA-I/T within a System



Levels of Service

Promotion Services to strengthen caregiver skills and

relationship with child

» DECA-I/T Supports knowledge building of socialemotional milestones

Prevention Services for families and children with identified social risks, delays, special health needs, and disabilities

» DECA-I/T Supports individualized planning, picking up on risk factors and building within-child protective factors

Intervention Services for families of children diagnosed with serious emotional disorders or severe

mental/ behavioral health problems » DECA-I/T can help in measuring social and emotional treatment outcomes using standardized scores

National Efforts

- Part C Pilot in Michigan
- · Community Mental Health Pilot in Michigan
- · Use in Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Programs
- Early Head Start- EHS Outcomes & DECA-I/T crosswalk
 - http://www.devereux.org/site/DocServer/EHS-DECAITCrossswalk.pdf?docID=8221

What Are the Benefits of the DECA-I/T?

- It has an emphasis on strength-based, promotion, prevention and assessment-guided intervention and fostering resilience
- It supports efforts to strengthen adults understanding, recognizing and nurturing of social and emotional growth of babies and toddlers across care settings.
- It is an assessment that is psychometrically sound and leads to positive changes!
- It allows for measuring outcomes related to children's social and emotional development. By comparing changes over time in an individual child's scores, the DECA-IT can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of program activities and operations.

Questions and Reflections

· What are you wondering about?



Thank You!



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www.devereuxearlychildhood.org



Professional Development & Training Available

For More Information Contact: DECI 444 Devereux Drive Villanova, PA 19085

Toll Free: 866-TRAINUS (872-4687) Email: DECA@Devereux.org www.devereuxearlychildhood.org





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Fax: 800-452-7526 Email: info@kaplanco.com www.kaplanco.com