Risk Factors

• Negative influences, situations, and characteristics that contribute to the probability that an individual will have difficulty coping with life. \(\textit{from Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategies Guide for Early Childhood Professionals, 2012}\)

• Like being caught in the storm without an umbrella.

Protective Factors

• Resources, processes, or characteristics that help an individual buffer risk and build resilience. \(\textit{from Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategies Guide for Early Childhood Professionals, 2012}\)

• Like an umbrella that provides shelter from the storm.

Resilience

• The ability to recover from or adjust to misfortune or change

• The ability to bounce back
Initiative

- The child’s ability to use independent thought and action to meet his or her needs.

DECA-P2 Initiative Items
- Choose to do a task that was hard for him/her
- Try different ways to solve a problem
- Try or ask to try new things or activities
- Show confidence in his/her ability
- Show an interest in learning new things
- Keep trying when unsuccessful
- Make decisions for himself/herself
- Remember important information
- Start or organize play with others

Self-Regulation

- The child’s ability to express emotions and manage behaviors in positive ways.

DECA-P2 Self-Regulation Items
- Handle frustration well
- Control his/her anger
- Show patience
- Accept another choice when his/her first choice is not available
- Cooperate with others
- Share with other children
- Listen to or respect others
- Calm himself/herself down
- Play well with others

Attachment/Relationships

- The child’s ability to promote and maintain mutual, positive connections with other children and significant adults.

DECA-P2 Attachment/Relationships Items
- Show affection for familiar adults
- Seem happy or excited to see his/her parent or guardian
- Ask adults to play with or read to him/her
- Act in a way that makes adults smile or show interest in him/her
- Look forward to activities at home or school
- Trust familiar adults and believe what they say
- Appear happy when playing with others
- Show a preference for a certain adult
- Seek help from children/adults when necessary
Behavioral Concerns Scale

- Seem sad or unemotional at a happy occasion
- Have a temper tantrum
- Seem uninterested in other children or adults
- Use obscene gestures or offensive language
- Destroy or damage property
- Have short attention span (difficulty concentrating)
- Fight with other children
- Become upset or cry easily
- Hurt others with actions or words
- Get easily distracted
- Touch children or adults in a way that you thought was inappropriate

DECA-P2 Definition

- The DECA-P2 is a strength-based, standardized assessment of within-child protective factors in children ages 3-5. It contains the following protective factor scales: Initiative, Self-Regulation, and Attachment/Relationships. In addition, the assessment includes an 11-item Behavior Concerns scale.
- The DECA-P2 is norm-referenced, reliable and valid.
- Paper and web-based/on-line version available.
The DECA Program – 5 Step System

STEP 1
Collect Information

STEP 2
Assess Each Child with the DECA-P2

STEP 3
Summarize Results

STEP 4
Plan and Implement Strategies

STEP 5
Review Progress and Adjust
### Understanding the New and Enhanced Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Preschool Program, Second Edition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Resource</th>
<th>Key Changes</th>
<th>The Original</th>
<th>The Second Edition</th>
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| • The Assessment  
• The User’s Guide and Technical Manual (web-based also available)  | **Updated Norms with new age range.** With standardized assessments, norms should be updated approx. every 10 years to reflect changes in the population. In addition to updated norms, the 2nd edition norms also reflect a new age range. | The standardization sample for the DECA includes 2 – 5 year old children and was based on the 1995 census. | The DECA-P2 includes children ages 3-5 and norms are based on the 2005 census.  
The DECA for Toddlers is now the recommended tool for 2 year old children |
| Scale names were adjusted to reflect current research and the importance of self-regulation and relationships as key protective factors for young children. | • Initiative  
• Self-Control  
• Attachment  
• Behavioral Concerns | • Initiative  
• Self-Regulation  
• Attachment/Relationships  
• Behavioral Concerns |
| **Items** included slight wording changes, a few deletions of existing items, and several new items were added. | 37 items (27 Protective Factor items, 10 Behavioral Concern items) | 38 items (27 Protective Factor items, 11 Behavioral Concern items) |
| **Interpretation.** An additional interpretation technique, **Individual Item Analysis** has been added to the DECA-P2. This feature allows users to identify the child’s strengths and needs at the item-level leading to more specific and behaviorally grounded strategies. | Individual Item Analysis did not exist on the DECA | Included in the DECA-P2. |

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Paul A. LeBuffe and Jack A. Naglieri
with the Devereux Center for Resilient Children
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers</td>
<td>• 70 research-based strategies</td>
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<td>A Strategies Guide for Early Childhood Professionals</td>
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<td>• Over four hundred tips to promote Initiative, Self-Regulation and Attachment/Relationships</td>
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<td>• Planning forms available as electronic downloads</td>
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<td>• Supports overall program quality with a focus on the resilience and health of the staff</td>
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