

Frequently Asked Questions

General

If my program only uses paper copies of DECA do we still have a way to access or create the support plans/reports? Conscious Discipline Strategies are only available on the web-based eDECA system.

Do you see this as a tool for an early childhood mental health person could use as an assessment tool and provide strategies? Early childhood mental health professionals across the nation use both the Devereux Early Childhood Assessments (DECA) as well as Conscious Discipline, making this new resource which brings these tools together so valuable.

Who can rate and child and how long does the rater need to know the child before administering the assessment? Ratings are typically completed by teachers/child care providers and/or parents. The assessment is designed to capture information about a child's behavior across a four week period of time, which means a rater needs to know a child for a minimum of four weeks before administering the assessment.

We would like to see some information on the Behavior Concerns section and how that looks. Page three of the single rating report provides specific information about a child's scores on the Behavioral Concerns scale. The information includes each item that comprises the Behavioral Concerns scale and how the rater responded to each item. This information can then be used to help understand more specifically what area(s) of behavior are of concern. This information should be used to select strategies that will best address the specific behaviors that require attention.

Is this available for the DECA-Clinical form as well? At this time, Conscious Discipline strategies are only available for the DECA for Preschoolers, 2nd Edition. There is not a timeline to make them available for the DECA-C.

What age levels do these tools cover? The Conscious Discipline strategies are currently integrated with the DECA for Preschoolers, 2nd Edition (age 3 through 5 years old) and will soon be available for the DECA for Infants (age 1-18 months) and the DECA for Toddlers (age 18-36 months)

What credentials/training is needed to administer the DECA? There are no credentials/training requirements to administer the assessment although Devereux does offer professional development for those programs interested in providing training to staff. Programs can access information from the User Guide and Technical Manual to ensure that the DECA is being administered and interpreted properly. For those programs that would like to access professional development related to the DECA, please contact Debi Mahler, Director of Professional Development at (610) 574-6141 or dmahler@devereux.org.

e-DECA Questions

Can parents access the site? If we choose the web-based platform would we have access to get the parents a paper copy of the assessment? At this time, parents are not provided with access to the website independently. It is possible, however, for a staff member to log into the system with a parent (at a computer terminal and on a tablet) for the parent to complete the assessments. It is also possible to print a PDF version of the assessment that parents can fill out by hand, and someone can then input the responses into the system

Is there any plan to make it so you can type into the notes section? The eDECA offers an HTML options, allowing users to copy and paste the text of a report into a Word Document. This option would allow both for editing of the overall report as well as typing into the notes section.

What languages is this available in? The assessment are available in English and Spanish, and the strategies are currently available only in English.

Will there be a report that I can generate that records all strategies that I have utilized with a specific child? The system does not save which strategies you select, so we recommend saving files in your personal system if you are looking to track usage.

Is there a strategy report that can be generated for the classroom profile results? So strategies for whole classroom based on results versus individual child. We do not offer this particular report. However, strategies for an entire classroom can be adapted from the individual strategies.

Other Questions

Do you know of FDC or GFDC providers that utilize this system? This solution would work very well for Group Family Day Care (GFDC) and Family Day Care (FDC) providers. FCD and GFDC providers that are part of a larger provider entity would benefit from collaborating to reduce the cost barrier associated with the annual license fee of \$249.95.

e-DECA & Conscious Discipline

Is the strategies report a component of DECA, Conscious Discipline or both? The strategies that are used within the Conscious Discipline & eDECA Assessment and Planning System were written by the Conscious Discipline team to fit within the DECA model of assessing Attachment/Relationships, Self-Regulation and Initiative. The report directly relates to the DECA tool, and the strategies are from Conscious Discipline.

Can you provide training on this hybrid of the models? Please contact Debi Mahler, Director of Professional Development for the Devereux Center for Resilient Children, to discuss options for your team. Debi can be reached at (610) 574-6141 or dmahler@devereux.org.