

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA), Preschool Second Edition: DECA-P2

Description	The DECA-P2 is a behavior rating scale that is completed by teachers and/or parents. It provides an assessment of within-child protective factors central to social and emotional health and resilience and can also be used as a screener for behavioral concerns, in children ages 3 through 5 years old (up to their 6 th birthday).
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Publisher, link to order	Kaplan Early Learning Company, www.kaplanco.com/devereux
Year of publication	2012
Age range	3-5 years old (up to 6 th birthday)
Scale titles, descriptions, number of items	<p>Total Protective Factors (TPF) – 27 items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative (IN): The child’s ability to use independent thought and action to meet his or her needs – 9 items • Self-Regulation (SR): The child’s ability to express emotions and manage behaviors in healthy ways – 9 items • Attachment/Relationships (AR): The child’s ability to promote and maintain mutual, positive connections with other children and significant adults – 9 items <p>Behavioral Concerns (BC) – 11 items TOTAL items on the DECA-P2 – 38</p>
Reading level	6 th grade
Assessment, screener	The DECA-P2 can be used as a screening tool or an assessment tool, depending on the <u>process and purpose</u> for which it is used. Results are used to identify the social and emotional strengths and needs of a child. The results should be used to plan for children to support their social-emotional growth and development. If the DECA-P2 is used to assess children’s protective factors and results are used to plan for that child’s growth and/or aggregated and used to plan for a group of children, then it is being used

	as an assessment tool. If it is used only to identify which children may need further observation or assessment, then it is being used as a screening tool.
Psychometrics	<p>Reliability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal reliability/consistency: Total Protective Factor (TPF) coefficients for parent raters (.92) and teacher raters (.95). Behavioral Concerns scale for parent raters (.80) and teacher raters (.86) also meet or exceed recommended minimum standard (see DECA-P2 User’s Guide and Technical Manual for details). • Test-retest reliability: TPF coefficients for parent raters (.88) and teacher raters (.95). Behavioral Concerns scale for parent raters (.78) and teacher raters (.80). • Inter-rater reliability: Correlations on all scales for teachers, and all but one scale for parents, are significant ($p < .01$). Total Protective Factors scale correlations are .51 for parent raters and .72 for teacher raters. Behavioral Concerns scale coefficients are .46 for parents and .70 for teachers. <p>Validity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content validity: High, based on literature review of social and emotional competence and resilience in young children, focus groups with early care and education professionals, and review by a national advisory committee. • Criterion validity: The DECA-P2 has shown significant differences between scores of preschoolers in an “identified sample” (those with emotional and behavioral disturbance) versus the “community sample” (their non-identified peers). • Construct validity: The DECA-P2 has strong convergent validity with the total scale scores for both the Preschool Emotional and Behavioral Rating Scale (PreBERS) and Conners Early Childhood (EC).
Standardization sample	Final sample included 3,553 children, ages 3-5 years old, representative of U.S. population based on the following factors: age, gender, geographic region of residence, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.
Administration time	The assessment takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete on paper, and approximately 3-5 minutes to complete online.
Results and basic interpretation descriptions, standard scores provided	Percentile ranks and T-scores are provided for each scale (Initiative, Self-Regulation, Attachment/Relationships, Behavioral Concerns) and for Total Protective Factors. Scale score results range from Area of Need (T-scores 40 and below), Typical (T-

	<p>scores 41-59), and Strengths (T-scores 60 and above) for Protective Factor scales. For the Behavioral Concerns scale, results range from Area of Need (T-scores 60 and above) or Typical (T-scores 59 and below). Results are provided at the individual and group levels via the Individual Child Profile and Group/Classroom Profile.</p>
Advanced interpretation	<p>Individual Item Analysis allows for identification of specific behaviors that can be leveraged (Strengths) or improved (Areas of Need) using specific strategies or interventions. Additional interpretation provided on the following: percentage delay; comparisons across raters; pretest-posttest comparison; evaluating outcomes at the child and program levels.</p>
Strategies, planning	<p>Results from the DECA-P2 lead to strength-based planning at the child, group, and program levels. The DECA-P2 is part of a comprehensive system of assessment and planning. Strategies are offered for parents/families as well as early childhood professionals, and other staff who work with young children. The Devereux Center for Resilient Children offers many useful planning resources, primarily Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers: A Strategy Guide for Early Childhood Professionals, as well as Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Preschool Children, 2nd edition. Visit www.centerforresilientchildren.org for more information on strategies and planning resources.</p>
Languages	<p>English and Spanish; culturally appropriate items (interpret results with child's culture in mind)</p>
Platform, delivery method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online, web-based system (e-DECA); click here to learn more • Printed, hard copy resources also available; click here to learn more
Pricing	<p>Online, web-based system (e-DECA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual license = \$299.95 • Ratings = range between \$1.00-\$4.50 each • Click here to learn more <p>Printed, hard copy resources (the DECA-P2 kit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$229.95 • <i>Note: Ideally, you would need one kit per classroom. Using the e-DECA is highly recommended since one annual license can cover your entire program/school!</i>

Resources for parents/families	Families can complete the DECA-P2 on their child. Promoting Resilience For Now and Forever: A Family Guide for Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of Preschool Children, 2nd Edition , is offered to help families understand resilience and social and emotional health, as well as how to build these skills in their child. Promoting Resilience in Preschoolers , our resource for professionals, offers many strategies and tips on creating and maintaining family partnerships. Socially Strong, Emotionally Secure: 50 Activities to Promote Resilience in Young Children is a great resource as well. We also offer Your Journey Together , a resource for any professional working with young children and their families. Additionally, we offer free resources on our website here .
Professional development/training	Training is not required to use the DECA-P2, but a variety of training/professional development opportunities are available. Contact Director of Professional Development Debi Mahler at dmahler@devereux.org for more information. You can also check out our national calendar. We offer free webinars and virtual trainings every school/program year.
Meets professional standards	The DECA-P2 helps programs meet the standards of both the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Head Start. Learn more here .

References

- Conners, C.K. (2009). *Conners early childhood manual*. Toronto, Canada: Multi-Health Systems.
- Epstein, M.H. & Synhorst, L. (2009). *Preschool behavioral and emotional rating scale, examiner's manual*. Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.
- LeBuffe, P.A. & Naglieri, J.A. (2012). *Devereux early childhood assessment for preschoolers, second edition*. Lewisville, NC: Kaplan Early Learning Company.
- LeBuffe, P.A. & Naglieri, J.A. (2012). (2012). *User's guide and technical manual*. Lewisville, NC: Kaplan Early Learning Company.