

DECA-I: Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants Full Profile Review

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Name of the measure

DECA-I: Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants

Author(s) / Publisher(s)

- English original (US):

<https://centerforresilientchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/DECA-I-full-version.pdf>

Author: M. Mackrain, P. LeBuffe, & G.Powell.

Publisher: Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC

Age Range

0-3 years

Age Range Information

4 weeks to 18 months

SEL Skills targeted

Relationship skills, Self-management, Behaviour problems

Scales and Subscales

The DECA Infant assessment (DECA-I) has 33 items that reflect positive behaviours (strengths) typically seen in resilient infants. These positive behaviours comprise two protective factor scales:

Initiative (18 items) assesses the infant's ability to use independent thought and actions to meet his or her needs. Sample items include "try new things," "imitate actions of others," "show interest in what others are doing," "express her/his dislikes," and "look to a familiar adult when exploring her/his surroundings."

Attachment/Relationships (15 items) assess the mutual, strong, long lasting relationship between the infant and significant adults such as family members and teachers. Sample items include "enjoy interacting with others," "show affection for a familiar adult," "seek comfort from familiar adults," and "smile at a familiar adult."

A Total Protective Factors scale, which is a composite of the above two scales, provides an overall indication of the strength of the infant's protective factors.

The DECA-I has 4 scoring profiles for the following age ranges to increase sensitivity to the differences in development at this age span:

1 month up to 3 months

3 months up to 6 months

6 months up to 9 months

9 months up to 18 months

(DECA-I/T – Kit, KAPLAN Early Learning Company)

Sources of information

Parent

Formats for administration

Questionnaire

Administration

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 www.e-deca2.org for more information.

Scoring

Manual, Electronic

Psychometric Properties

Reliability:

“Internal reliability/Consistency – Excellent. Total Protective Factor (TPF) coefficients for Parent raters on the Infant Form range from .90 - .94; and coefficients for teacher raters ranged from .93 - .94. These figures meet or exceed the recommended minimum standard—See User’s Manual for details.”

(DCRC, DECA-I Summary Table. 2007)

Validity:

“Content validity – High, based on a 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.

Construct validity – Using the sister tool of the DECA-I/T, the DECA (for ages 2-5), data were 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-T as well.”

(DCRC, DECA-I Summary Table. 2007)

Training

Knowledge of test (assessment) interpretation is necessary to understand the results and further explain the results to families.

Other Relevant Information

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

Citation

This document was generated from the database used to create the Assessment Measures Compendium:

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