

# **DECA-T:** Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Toddlers

## Full Profile Review

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## **Name of the measure**

DECA-T: Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Toddlers

## **Author(s) / Publisher(s)**

- English original (US): <https://www.kaplanco.com/product/16139/deca-early-childhood-assessment-for-infants-toddlers-deca-i-t-kit?c=17%7CEA1000>

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

Publisher: Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lewisville, NC

## **Age Range**

0-3 years

## **Age Range Information**

18 months to 36 months

## **SEL Skills targeted**

Self-management, Behaviour problems

## **Scales and Subscales**

The DECA Toddler assessment (DECA-T) has 36 items that reflect positive behaviours (strengths) typically seen in resilient toddlers. These positive behaviours comprise three protective factor scales:

Initiative (11 items) assesses the toddler's ability to use independent thought and actions to meet her or his needs. Sample items include "show concern for other children," "try to comfort others," "play make-believe," and "try to clean up after herself/himself."

Attachment/Relationships (18 items) assesses the mutual, strong, long lasting relationship between the toddler and significant adults such as family members and teachers. Sample items include "make needs known to a familiar adult," "accept comfort from a familiar adult," "act happy when praised," and "make others aware of her/his needs."

Self-Regulation (7 items) assesses the toddler's ability to gain control of and manage emotions, and sustain focus and attention. Sample items include "handle frustration well," "accept another choice when the first choice was not available," "adjust to changes in routine," and "easily follow a daily routine."

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

(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 the use of the web-based version.

Visit [www.e-deca2.org](http://www.e-deca2.org) for more information.

## Scoring

Manual, Electronic

## Psychometric Properties

Reliability:

“Internal reliability/Consistency –Total Protective Factor (TPF) coefficients for parent raters on the Toddler Form was .94; and coefficients for teacher raters were .95. These figures meet or exceed the recommended minimum standard—Details in User’s Manual.”

(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-I 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

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