



# The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T)

## What is the DECA-IT?

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T) is a premier instrument for assessing protective factors and screening for social and emotional risks in very young children.

The DECA-I/T comes with two standardized tools. It has a separate assessment for infants (1 month up to 18 months) and one for toddlers (18 months up to 36 months).

The Infant assessment has 33 items and the Toddler assessment has 36 items.

The infant assessment has 2 protective factor scales, Attachment/Relationships and Initiative. It also has a Total Protective Factor Scale that is an overall indication of the strength of a child's protective factors. The toddler scale has three protective factor scales, Attachment/Relationships, Initiative and Self-regulation as well as a Total Protective Factor Scale.

If you are familiar with the preschool DECA, the layout and scoring will be similar. Once completed, the assessment can be easily scored using an individual profile to obtain t-scores, percentiles and descriptions (strength, typical, area of need) for each scale.

The Infant assessment (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

The Toddler assessment (DECA-T) has one scoring profile covering the 18 month up to 36 month age range.

### **Who Administers the DECA-I/T?**

Just like the preschool version, the DECA-I/T is completed by parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers. The assessment can be hand scored or can be scored with the scoring CD that will be available when the tool is published. The scores should be interpreted by someone with experience in assessment.

### **Purposes of the DECA-I/T**

#### ***The DECA-I/T:***

1. Provides the ability to identify within-child protective factors of individual infants and toddlers and generate a profile of strengths and concerns in specified areas.
2. Provides information to parents and caregivers of protective factor areas that may require additional support.
3. Provides parents and caregivers a way to recognize potential early warning signs that may indicate the need for further assessment.
4. Assists programs with specified assessment requirements (i.e., Early Head Start programs) in meeting standards for the social and emotional development of infants and toddlers in a strength-based, family-centered manner.
5. Provides programs with a useful outcome measure related to children's social and emotional development. By comparing changes over time in an individual child's scores, the DECA-I/T can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of program activities and operations.
6. Provides the ability for comparison of scores obtained from different adults (e.g., a teacher and a parent) to evaluate the consistency or variability of the child's behavior across home and early care and learning environments.
7. Provides programs with a psychometrically sound tool. The DECA-I/T is standardized, norm referenced, valid and reliable.
8. Provides a useful measure for research related activities related to infant and toddler social-emotional development

### What is in the DECA-I/T Kit?

- 1 set each of Record Forms for Infant (20) and for Toddlers (30)
- DECA-IT Users Guide
- Parent Teacher Profile Masters, set of 5 reproducible
- A reproducible copy of the technical manual and scoring profiles on CD
- **BONUS!** A simple, easy to use introductory scoring CD for up to 50 DECA-IT child administrations (any combination of Infant and Toddler)
- Packaged in a poly box with handle

### Availability:

The DECA-I/T will be published in February of 2007. If you would like to be notified when the DECA-I/T is released please email [deca@devereux.org](mailto:deca@devereux.org) and request to be added to the DECA-IT mailing list. If you are interested in scheduling specialized DECA-I/T training or want to find out more about training call 866-TRAIN-US or email us at [deca@devereux.org](mailto:deca@devereux.org). For other questions, please call the Devereux Early Childhood team at (610) 542-3108.

For ordering information please contact Kaplan Early Learning Company at: 1/800-334-2014 or [www.kaplanco.com](http://www.kaplanco.com)

