

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Preschoolers (DECA)

The DECA is a standardized tool designed to assess the resilience strengths and social-emotional needs of young children aged 2 to 5. Used mainly by psychologists, educators, or early childhood professionals, it aims to identify the child's internal and external resources to promote social and academic success, while detecting possible emotional or behavioral difficulties.

Number of questions	38 questions
Estimated duration	15 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Devereux Early Childhood Assessment
Target audience	Preschool children
Authors	Jack A. Naglieri, Paul A. LeBuffe, Karen A. Pfeiffer (1999)
Category	Childhood

Preview of the 38 questions

During the past 4 weeks, how often did the child...

act in a way that made adults smile or show interest in him/her?

Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Very frequently

During the past 4 weeks, how often did the child...

listen to or respect others?

Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Very frequently

During the past 4 weeks, how often did the child...

control his/her anger?

Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Very frequently

During the past 4 weeks, how often did the child...

seem sad or unemotional at a happy occasion?

Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Very frequently

During the past 4 weeks, how often did the child...

show confidence in his/her abilities (for instance, say "I can do it!")?

Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Very frequently

Scoring & interpretation

Each item is rated on a Likert-type scale. The scores are compiled to provide indices of the child's resilience resources and social-emotional needs. The results yield profiles that help guide educational or psychological support.

Usage

This tool isn't available on Mentaal. To use this questionnaire in your practice, you need a valid license. We invite you to send it directly from the publisher's website.