

*Devereux*  
ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CENTER FOR  
RESILIENT CHILDREN

## Promoting Resilience and Social-Emotional Health





# THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTIVE FACTORS



The mission of the Devereux Center for Resilient Children (DCRC) is to promote social and emotional development, foster resilience, and build skills for school and life success in children birth through school-age, as well as to promote the resilience of the adults who care for them. Our nationally standardized, strength-based assessments, strategy resources, and professional development are grounded in resilience research, and for over 20 years have been used by thousands of programs across the U.S. and internationally.

The research-based assessments and strategies measure and develop protective factors - such as positive attachment/relationships, self-regulation and initiative - so that we can build strong and resilient children. Protective factors offset or diminish the effects of risk and adversity. Children with these protective factors tend to have positive outcomes despite stress ... these children are resilient. Children without these protective factors are more likely to experience negative life outcomes, such as emotional and behavioral problems.

DCRC's resilience-building resources promote protective factors by giving adults the tools they need to strengthen children's social and emotional skills. Building these skills provides children with a strong foundation to do well in school and throughout life.

## CHILD RESILIENCE

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Program is an assessment and planning system designed to promote resilience in children, ages 4 weeks through 5 years old. Through this program, early childhood professionals and families learn specific strategies to support young children's social-emotional development and to enhance the overall quality of early childhood programs.

## ADULT RESILIENCE

Adults who are resilient are better able to support the needs of children in their care. DCRC's Adult Resilience Initiative offers resources - such as the Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS) - and training to help adults strengthen their protective factors. Through a process of self-reflection and skill-building, adults learn strategies that strengthen four key protective factors: Relationships, Internal Beliefs, Initiative and Self-Control.

## ORGANIZATION RESILIENCE

Human service organizations need leaders who understand the power of resilience and have the knowledge and skills to promote resilience within their workforce. Our Resilient Leadership Initiative offers resources and training to those individuals responsible for managing teams. Individuals gain insights and tools to create a resilience cascade through supporting resilience in adults who, in turn, promote resilience in young children.

# BUILDING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS



Research has demonstrated protective factors, as measured by the DECA, correlate highly with measures of cognitive and language skills. By assessing and promoting resilience, the Devereux Center for Resilient Children has **positively impacted more than 7 million children.**

## What do people have to say about us?

“ For more than a decade, Ohio’s partnership with the Devereux Center for Resilient Children has benefited thousands of young children and their families, statewide. The outcome data from the DECA Program confirms that Ohio’s investment in strengthening children’s resilience and supporting educators in creating learning environments that promote protective factors is truly effective.

**Valerie Alloy, Ph.D.**, Lead, Early Childhood Mental Health Initiatives  
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Professional development provided by DCRC has been instrumental to the ongoing success of our statewide project, Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors in Child Care Centers. North Carolina has funded this project since 2016 to address the social-emotional development in early childhood classrooms and the incidence of suspension and expulsion, which often follows a young child’s use of challenging behaviors.

**Smokie Brawley**, Project Manager  
Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors Project (N.C.)

The DECA has been recommended as the best tool for early care and education, early childhood research, and assessing emotional intelligence in preschool settings in the U.S., Canada and England. ”

**Linda Reddy**, Professor  
Rutgers University

# Nationally recognized social and emotional assessments

The U.S. Department of Education has identified the DECA as one of four assessment tools appropriate to assess the percentage of eligible children attaining measurable gains in emotional, behavioral and social development.

Numerous research studies have found the DECA to be a predictor of school readiness, and in one study, the DECA results were a stronger predictor of achievement than socioeconomic status.

In 2015, the DECA was highlighted in the Handbook of Social and Emotional Learning as an example of a quality assessment that can be used to determine the ways in which children's social and emotional skills promote various positive outcomes.

## Why is resilience necessary?

A resilient person copes and "bounces back" when faced with stress, change or risk factors - negative influences in a person's life. Someone who is resilient can identify problems, find ways to address challenges, recover quickly and move on. A resilient person has many protective factors - characteristics, people and supports that help a person get through tough times.

## Who do we help?

DCRC focuses on young children, as well as the adults who care for them (parents, early childhood educators, teachers, after-school teachers, caseworkers and other child-serving professionals), to promote healthy social and emotional development and resilience.

## What do we do?

- Develop nationally standardized, reliable, valid, strength-based assessments that are used to better understand a child's social and emotional strengths and areas of need
- Offer research-informed strategy resources that promote healthy social-emotional development and resilience in children and the adults who care for them
- Provide professional development opportunities that focus on building the resilience of children, families, staff and child-serving organizations

**"Resilience does not come from rare and special qualities, but from the everyday magic of ordinary, normative human resources in the minds, brains and bodies of children, in their families and relationships, and in their communities."**

**- Ann Masten**

## DCRC Resources

- Devereux Early Childhood Assessments (DECA) - Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Clinical
- Devereux Adult Resilience Survey (DARS)
- Professional development and technical assistance
- Resilience-building strategies and resources
- Consultation on program leadership, planning, implementation and evaluation of resilience-focused work

## CONTACT US

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