

Establishing Effective Partnerships in Early Childhood Systems of Care with Families and Across Agencies

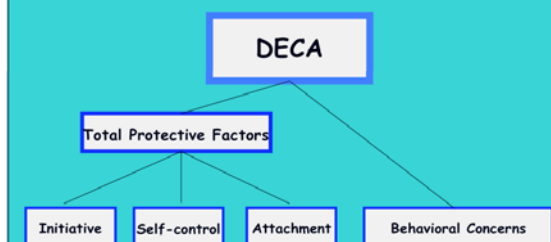
The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) Program

- Based on resilience theory, the DECA program is a mental health promotion, primary prevention, and early intervention system
- Fosters partnerships between parents, teachers and, when necessary, mental health professionals
- Evidence-based
- Enhances, not replaces, other curricula

The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA)

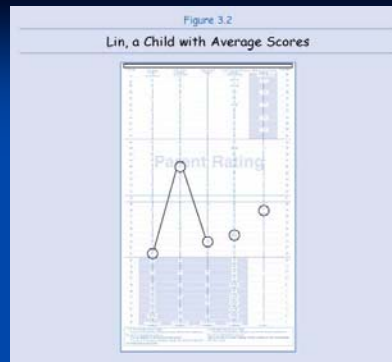
- Core of the DECA program
- Nationally normed (US), standardized measure of within-child protective factors in children ages 2-5
- *Assesses* three protective factors
 - *Initiative*
 - *Self-Control*
 - *Attachment*
- *Screens* for behavioral concerns

DECA Scales Structure



The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) cont.

- Meets professional standards for assessments
- Brief – 37 items, 5-8 minutes to complete
- English and Spanish
- Computerized administration and scoring available
- Assessment results lead directly to classroom and home strategies to promote resilience



Promoting Partnerships with Families

- Both parents and teachers complete the DECA
 - On individual child profile, parents come first
- Rater comparison provides a statistically sound, easy technique to achieve a better understanding of the child's behavior across environments and with different adults
- Based on the standard error of the difference
- Can compare each scale as well as the total

Rater Comparison Discussion Guide

		Teacher Rating	
		Concern	No Concern
Parent Rating	Concern	How can we work together to help the child?	Let me tell you how we work with the child at school.
	No Concern	Tell me about what works at home.	Great – how can we continue to support the child?

DECA & Parent-Professional Collaboration Summary

- Strength-based approach is a better basis for collaboration than deficit approaches
- DECA provides a sound, easy to use technique to compare the parent and teachers perceptions.
- Comparisons can be made at the individual scale level
- Tools are designed to reinforce the primacy of the parent.
- Most importantly, results support collaborative planning to support the child.