Information about Social Emotional Screening & Assessment Tools

Screening for Social Emotional Concerns: Considerations in the Selection of Instruments
Jasolyn Henderson and Phillip Strain, January 2009

Developmental Screening and Assessment Instruments with an Emphasis on Social and Emotional Development for Young Children Ages Birth through Five. Compiled by Sharon Ringwalt, May 2008
http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/screening.pdf

Research Synthesis on Screening and Assessing Social-Emotional Competence
Tweety Yates, Michaelene Ostrosky, Gregory Cheatham, Angel Fettig, LaShorage Shaffer and Rosa Milagros Santos 2008
http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/rs_screening_assessment.pdf

Free Webinars on Screening and Assessment Tools

ASQ For programs serving young children birth–5½, learn how to effectively use ASQ, the #1 developmental screening tool, with children and families from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds.


DECA-I/T The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Program for Infants and Toddlers is a strength-based system designed to promote the protective factors central to social and emotional health and resilience in our youngest children. This webinar will provide an introduction to the DECA for Infants and Toddlers Program, with a primary focus on the infant and toddler assessments. Learn about the constructs that the assessment tools measure and how this information is used for assessment and planning in a variety of settings including child care, Early Head Start Programs, home-based programs and other group settings. Information on promoting adult resilience will also be highlighted.

DECA-I/T Scoring Tutorial This webinar provides a step-by-step tutorial on scoring the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers.

Scoring the DECA Preschool 2 This webinar takes the viewer through the process of scoring the paper version of the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment - Preschool, Second Edition, or the DECA-P2. It assesses protective factors in children 3 through 5 years old.

Using the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Clinical Form (DECA-C) Webinar Preschool children who use challenging behaviors over and over as ways to meet needs may need more than universal interventions. The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment-Clinical Version (DECA-C) can help. This webinar will introduce professionals to the ways that the DECA-C can be used to measure and strengthen behaviors related to resilience while also taking a closer look at challenging behavior that may be interfering with a young child’s success.

LSP Life Skills Progression (Birth-3)- A Family Centered assessment-Identifies the needs of families & monitors home visiting program’s effectiveness. Measures key family competencies: relationships with children, relationships with family and friends, physical health care, education and employment, mental health and substance abuse, infant/toddler development and temperament and basic needs. Completed by Home Visitor who knows family well.

PICCOLO Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes- An assessment of parent child interactions in 4 areas: affection, responsiveness, encouragement, teaching. Completed by Home visitors, parent educators, nurses, SW, early childhood teachers, researchers, program evaluators. 10 minutes to complete. 3-5 minutes to score.

SEAM An assessment and monitoring of social emotional development in infants, toddlers and preschoolers at risk for delays or challenges. Ideal follow-up to screeners such as ASQ: SE-2. Reveals detailed information on children’s social-emotional competence and identifies caregivers’ strengths and areas of need.

Social/Emotional/Behavioral Health Screening Tools

Ages And Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ: SE-2) 1–72 months
10–15 minutes for parents to complete and just 2–3 minutes for professionals to score. Screens 7 areas including self-regulation, compliance, communication, adaptive behaviors, autonomy, affect, and interaction with people. Training is available in Virginia through Project S.E.E.D. on the newly revised ASQ:SE-2. Visit Training page at www.ecmhva.org for information. Visit the ASQ website and sign up for their newsletter and/or view video clips of the ASQ online at www.agesandstages.com

Behavior Assessment System for Children, Second Edition Behavioral and Emotional Screening System
Brief, targeted forms and software for monitoring changes in behavior or emotional status.
Ages: 2:0 - 21:11 (TRS and PRS); 6:0 through college age (SRP)
10-20 minutes (TRS and PRS), 30 minutes (SRP)

Brief Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment (BITSEA) (12–36 months)
Brief comprehensive screening instrument to evaluate parent’s perception of a child’s behavior in order to guide further discussion and identify children that may need further assessment for social or emotional issues or referral. 7-10 minutes to complete. Screens activity/impulsivity, aggression/defiance, peer aggression, depression/withdrawal, general anxiety, separation distress, compliance, attention, imitation/play, mastery motivation, empathy, pro-social peer relations. If social-emotional and developmental delays are identified, follow-up with the Infant Toddler Social Emotional Assessment (ITSEA) for further assessment. Review of the Brief Infant-Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment (BITSEA). Edmonton, Alberta, Canada is available at http://www.cup.ualberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/FINAL_BITSEA_Jun_2012.pdf

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T) (4 weeks up to 18 months)
The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment for Infants and Toddlers (DECA-I/T) is a standardized, norm-referenced, strength based assessment that assesses protective factors and screens for social and emotional risks in very young children. Just like the preschool version, the DECA-I/T is completed by parents and caregivers of infants and toddlers.

Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) (Preschool Children ages 2-5)
The Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) is a nationally normed assessment of within-child protective factors in preschool children aged two to five. The DECA is an easy-to-use assessment system with a 10-minute administration time. Evaluates the effectiveness of individual child and program-wide interventions; Provides developmentally appropriate strategies to foster resilience; Effectively screens for emotional and behavioral concerns; and emphasizes a team approach among professional and family members.

Greenspan Social Emotional Growth Chart 0-42 months
Monitor the milestones of social-emotional development in infants and very young children. 10 minutes to complete; completed by the child’s parent, educator or other caregiver. Used to determine whether further assessment/referral is warranted & can assist in monitoring growth and planning.

Indicators of Individual Growth and Development for Infants and Toddlers-Early Social Indicator (ESI)
A set of measures designed and validated for use by early childhood practitioners to monitor infant and toddler growth and progress. Unlike standardized tests that are administered infrequently, IGDI’s are designed to be used repeatedly by practitioners to estimate each child’s “rate of growth” over time. The benefit of this approach is that the information can be used to make data-based decisions about intervention design and implementation at reasonable levels of training, time, and cost. Individual Growth and Development Indicators (IGDI’s) help guide intervention decisions and provide helpful information about children’s growth toward socially valued outcomes. IGDI’s are child performance measures designed for use by childcare practitioners to reflect individual children’s progress toward general outcomes.

Click on an IGDI below to learn more about it:
- Social (ESI)
- Parent-Child Interaction (IPCI)
Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Clinical (DECA-C) (Preschool Children ages 2-5)
An assessment of resilience in preschoolers ages 2 to 5 with social and emotional problems or significant behavioral concerns. Whereas the DECA is designed to be used with all children to promote healthy social and emotional growth, the primary purpose of the DECA-C is to support early intervention efforts to reduce or eliminate significant emotional and behavioral concerns in preschool children. The DECA-C may also be used to guide interventions, help identify children needing special services, assess outcomes, and help programs meet Head Start, IDEA and similar standards.

Infant and Toddler Social and Emotional Assessment (ITSEA) (12–36 months)
The ITSEA assesses for social or emotional problems and competencies in infants and toddlers and was designed to identify children with deficits or delays in these areas. It provides a comprehensive profile of problems and competencies with scores on 4 domains: 1) Externalizing, 2) Internalizing, 3) Dysregulation, 4) Competence. Each domain is comprised of a number of subscales (see sample items). The ITSEA also yields scores on three clusters that include atypical behaviors: Maladaptive, Social Relatedness, and Atypical. There are two versions, a Parent Form and a Childcare Provider Form; both are reviewed in this database. The ITSEA is the longer version of the BITSEA taking 25-30 to complete vs. 7-10 minutes in the shorter BITSEA version.

Social-Emotional Assessment/Evaluation Measure (SEAM™) (2–66 months) is a functional tool for assessing and monitoring social-emotional and behavioral development in infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at risk for social-emotional delays or problems. It can be used in tandem with screening instruments such as the Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE). SEAM yields in-depth information on children’s social-emotional skills and deficits as well as their caregivers’ strengths and areas of need. It was developed to assist in the early identification of social-emotional difficulties and behavior disorders and to prevent problems by building positive partnerships with families and optimizing positive parent–child interactions in the first years of life. Early childhood teachers, home visitors, and early intervention or early childhood special education personnel can use the SEAM results to develop high-quality and developmentally appropriate social-emotional goals and objectives for children and their families.

Virginia Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS): The CANS, developed by John S. Lyons, Ph.D., is a child and family assessment instrument to help plan and manage services for children and their families at both an individual and system of care level. The CANS helps guide service planning, track child and family outcomes, promote resource development and support decision making. The CANS Comprehensive is an open domain tool for use in service delivery systems that address the mental health of children, adolescents and their families. The copyright is held by the Praed Foundation to ensure that it remains free to use. For specific permission to use please contact the Foundation@praedfoundation@yahoo.org OR www.praedfoundation.org
CANS Training (free online): https://canstraining.com/register
CANS Users Manuals and Score Sheets are available here: http://www.csa.virginia.gov/html/cans/cans_documents.cfm

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