

Items on the DESSA 40

Below is the list of behaviors on the DESSA divided up into its 8 subscales. When AmeriCorps members fill out a DESSA for a student these items will all be mixed together. All items are framed with, "How often does the student..."

Personal Responsibility

- Handle his/her belongings with care
- Prepare for school, activities, or upcoming events
- Do routine tasks or chores without being reminded
- Get things done in a timely fashion
- Show care when doing a project or school work

Optimistic Thinking

- Carry herself/himself with confidence
- Say good things about herself/himself
- Speak about positive things
- Say good things about the future
- Express high expectations for himself/herself

Goal-directed Behavior

- Keep trying when unsuccessful
- Seek out additional knowledge or information
- Take an active role in learning
- Seek out challenging tasks
- Work hard on projects

Social Awareness

- Get along with different types of people
- Act respectfully in a game or competition
- Respect another person's opinion
- Resolve a disagreement
- Cooperate with peers or siblings

Decision Making

- Accept responsibility for what she/he did
- Show good judgment
- Learn from experience
- Follow the advice of a trusted adult
- Show an ability to decide between right and wrong

Relationship Skills

- Compliment or congratulate someone
- Express concern for another person
- Make a suggestion or request in a polite way
- Offer to help somebody
- Respond to another person's feelings

Self-Awareness

- Ask questions to clarify what he/she did not understand
- Show an awareness of personal strengths
- Ask somebody for feedback
- Describe how he/she was feeling
- Give an opinion when asked

Self-Management

- Pay attention
- Focus on a task despite problem or distraction
- Perform the steps of a task in order
- Think before he/she acted
- Stay calm when faced with a challenge